



The Local Government Act, 1888, Sec. 24 (2) c, and the Orders of the Local Government Board.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

FOR THE

URBAN AND RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS,

WITHIN THE COUNTY OF DORSET,

For the Year ended 31st DECEMBER, 1910.

Extracts from General Order of Local Government Board, 1891.

AS TO

Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

Part 1.

Art. 18, par (14). He shall also make an annual report to the Sanitary Authority, up to the end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken, or which he has advised the Sanitary Authority to take during the year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the Sanitary state of his District generally at the end of the year. The report shall also contain an account of the enquiries which he has made as to conditions injurious to health existing in the District, and of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under any Statute so far as such proceedings relate to those conditions; and also an account of the supervision exercised by him, or on his advice, for sanitary purposes over places and houses that the Sanitary Authority have power to regulate, with the nature and results of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. The report shall also record the action taken by him, or on his advice, during the year in regard to offensive trades, to dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, and to factories and workshops. The Report shall also contain tabular statements (on forms to be supplied by Us, or to the like effect) of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

Provided that, if the Medical Officer of Health shall cease to hold office before the 31st day of December in any year, he shall make the like report for so much of the year as shall have expired when he ceases to hold office.

Art. 18, par. (16). At the same time that he gives information to us of an outbreak of infectious disease, or transmits to us a copy of his annual report or of any special report, he shall give the like information or transmit a copy of such report to the County Council of the County within which his district may be situated.

Part 2.

In regard to every Medical Officer of Health, no part of whose salary is intended to be payable to an Urban Sanitary Authority by a County Council, or by the Town Council of a Borough in pursuance of the Local Government Act, 1888, We do hereby Order:—

Art. 20. The following shall be the duties of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the District for which he is appointed:—

(1) He shall within seven days after his appointment report the same in writing to Us.

(2) He shall perform all the duties prescribed by Article 18 of this Order for a Medical Officer of Health in respect of whose salary a payment is intended to be made by a County Council as aforesaid.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Blandford—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

The Area of the District is 145 acres.

The Population (census 1901) is 3649, and, estimated to the middle of 1910, it is 3660.

Births.—There were 67 Births. The *birth-rate* is 18·3.

Deaths.—There were 60 deaths. The *death-rate* is 16·4.

The Infantile Mortality is 134·3.

The Zymotic Mortality is 0·8.

The average Age at Death is 51·7.

The average number of Persons per house is 4·3.

There were three illegitimate births.

Eight persons died in the Workhouse and four in the Cottage Hospital who were non-residents of the Borough.

By the deduction of these twelve deaths from the original number (60), the corrected death-rate is 13·1.

The ages at which deaths occurred are—

AGE				NUMBER	
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	9
1 year and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	1
5 years	..	15	..	..	2
15 "	..	25	..	..	1
25 "	..	65	..	..	15
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	32
					—
					60
					—

The mortality from every cause has been—

Measles	..	..	..	..	2
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	3
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	4
Other Tubercular disease	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer	..	..	..	..	6
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	5
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	11
Accident	..	..	..	..	1
Suicide	..	..	..	..	1
All other causes	..	..	..	..	24
					—
					60
					—

The rate of Infantile Mortality has unfortunately again somewhat risen, but the cause of death of the 9 infants who died under one year of age was in neither of them the result of improper feeding.

1	lived 48 hours	being undeveloped.
1	aged 2 months	died of Bronchitis.
1	" 2½	" Suffocation (being over-laid).
1	" 4	" Whooping Cough.
2	" 6	" "
1	" 8	" Intussusception after operation
1	" 10	" Pneumonia.
1	" 11	" "

The Birth-rate is still very low.

I received 46 notifications of Infectious diseases during the year.—

2	Diphtheria.
42	Scarlatina.
2	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Scarlet Fever was imported into this locality at Charlton Marshall; it at once commenced to spread and was prevalent in the Borough at the beginning of the year. It has appeared from time to time ever since, but of late there is evidence that it is disappearing. Forty cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital; and but for this useful establishment, no doubt the disease would have prevailed as alarmingly as was the case thirteen years ago.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Blandford (Urban)—continued.

I was unable to discover any cause to account for the two cases of diphtheria.

The Water supplied to the Town by the Blandford Waterworks Company still gives the greatest satisfaction. A large majority of the Members of the Blandford Corporation made a systematic inspection of the Borough in the autumn, in which I accompanied them with Mr. Barnes, the Inspector of Nuisances. We condemned several cottages, which have since been satisfactorily repaired, and as a result of our inspection, 40 privy vaults have been abolished and filled in, 60 pail closets were adopted, 13 cottages supplied with water, 2 wells closed and 5 pumps. A most satisfactory result, and one which must of necessity greatly contribute to the sanitary condition of the Town.

In the Borough of Blandford there are—

20 Factories.
68 Workshops.
9 Bakehouses.

These have been inspected by Mr. Barnes, the Inspector of Nuisances, on 232 occasions in the year, and no serious cause of complaint has been detected.

There are 532 outworkers engaged in glove making for a Firm in the Borough, and 38 working in other trades.

At the present time there is only one shop in the Borough from which milk is retailed, and in this everything is perfectly satisfactory.

The Slaughter-houses as well as the Bakehouses are all in a sanitary condition.

The one Common Lodging House is conducted in as decent a manner as I think is possible.

Bridport—Mr. Walter E. Manby.

The Area of the District is 673 acres.

The Population—5970.

The number of Births was 93, as against 100 in 1909.

The Birth-rate worked out at 15 per 1,000 of the population—the rate for England and Wales being 21·8, and for 136 small towns 23·7.

The Deaths numbered 98 as against 85 in 1909.

The Death-rate was 16 per 1000 living, that for England and Wales being 13·4, and for 136 small towns, 12·9.

The Average Age at Death was 52.

The facts relating to the mortality are set forth in Table IV. I give here the incidence at the different periods of life, and a brief summary of the causes of death. The incidence is as follows:—

	1910.	1909.
Under 1 year ..	8 as compared with 12	
1 and under 5 years ..	3 " "	2
5 " 15 " ..	5 " "	3
15 " 25 " ..	5 " "	10
25 " 65 " ..	28 " "	23
65 and upwards ..	50 " "	35

The mortality is thus relatively highest in the first year of life and in the last phase. It is satisfactory to note the diminution in infantile mortality. Of the causes of death, there were due to cancer, 7; phthisis, 11; tubercular, 2; heart diseases, 11; pneumonia, 3; of the infantile mortality, prematurity marasmus, 5; measles, 2. The striking points that arise out of these statistics are the number of deaths due to tubercular diseases, cancer, and heart disease. I am glad to note an improvement as regards phthisis and allied affections. In 1909 there were 17 deaths attributable to that cause. As regards infantile mortality, the deaths cannot be traced to faulty feeding or to definite diseases, but rather to inherent weakness at birth. The marked absence of maladies which usually make havoc of infant life, and also amongst children in the first five years of life, during my term of office, is a matter upon which I may congratulate you. I refer to such diseases as epidemic summer diarrhoea, bronchitis and broncho pneumonia, measles and its complications. It speaks well for our climate, our milk supply, and our hygienic conditions.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—Six cases of scarlet fever and five of diphtheria were notified during the year. Three scarlatinal and all the diphtheretic cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and there treated. As regards the scarlet fever, three cases arose almost simultaneously at a private day school. Every effort was made to trace the source of the infection, but this could not be definitely arrived at. The school, however, was promptly closed, and disinfected, and no further instance arose amongst the scholars in their homes.

Under the Public Health Regulations (in regard to tuberculosis), 1908.—Two cases were notified, and two deaths occurred. The infected premises were disinfected and the bedding destroyed. In the early months of the year the following schools were closed for a period of four weeks, by order of the Medical Inspector of Schools, on account of an outbreak of measles and whooping cough:—Bridport Allington School, on February 15th; Bridport Church School, on March 8th; The General School (Infants' department), on March 12th.

In regard to the Subject of Disinfection.—Including the cases of notifiable phthisis, there were ten instances where the disinfection of infected premises was carried out. For the disinfection of bedding, clothing, &c., I think it very desirable that the necessary plant for exposing these to superheated steam should be substituted for the system now in use. I hope to submit to you my views on this subject in the immediate future.

Sanitary Inspections.—Seventy-eight of these were made during the year, beside inspections of vessels at West Bay, and twelve notices were served altogether.

Housing of the Working Classes.—It cannot be maintained that the housing accommodation—in the past few years—has been sufficient. There are practically no uninhabited houses in the Borough, and for many who wish to reside in the town it has not been possible. On the other hand there have been instances of overcrowding. There is, in short, a pressing need for more houses, and I am glad to record that fifteen new ones are in course of erection at the instance of the Council, and with the approval of the Local Government Board. I hope this movement may prove to be the initial stage of a wider one in the future. It is only by improving the dwellings of the people and the conditions under which they live that we can hope to strike at the roots of such a problem as that of tuberculosis and consumption. In accordance with the instructions conveyed to me by the Local Government Board and embodied in the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, I am proposing to make an inspection, in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances, of such house and premises as may seem to us to need inspection. The first area we propose for inspection is East Street (from King Street to East Bridge, South side), King Street (East and West sides), Folly Mill Lane and Church Street. The object aimed at by this survey will be to condemn all tenements that are clearly unfit for human habitation and to cause amendments to be made in the condition of those which can be made habitable, in accordance with the act.

The Scavenging and Flushing of the district has been regularly carried out. Our system of drainage being a combined one, sewers of a wider capacity than would have otherwise sufficed have been necessary. As a result it is difficult by means of flushing by hydrant to secure efficient scouring of the upper surfaces of the sewer in dry seasons. Effete matter is liable to be deposited in that part. This is probably the explanation of the effluvia which is noticeable in some quarters in close weather. The full bore flush provided by automatic tank action would more effectually scour the sewers, and I am pleased to hear their installation is being considered by the Council.

The Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds were severally inspected during the year. I found them to be well conducted—for the most part—and in good sanitary condition. In regard to a slaughter-house, I received complaints on more than one occasion, and I visited the premises with the Sanitary Inspector. We found it was not being conducted in strict accordance with modern regulations, and a notice was served to abate the nuisance complained of. Pamphlets and leaflets containing instructions for ensuring a wholesome milk supply to the inhabitants of the Borough have been distributed to the owners of dairies and cowsheds, and to the householders and consumers of milk.

The Water Supply.—There was no shortage during the year, and I received no complaints. The quarterly reports on samples sent for analysis were all satisfactory.

The Port of Bridport.—Nine vessels arrived from foreign ports, and 62 coastwise. The latter were regularly inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and the former by myself.

Dorchester—Dr. E. J. Day.

Area.—The Area of this Sanitary District is 1653 acres, including the 1092 acres which were added when the Borough was extended in the year 1900.

Population.—The Population in 1901 when the last census was taken was 9458 (which is now estimated to be 11000) many new houses having been built in Victoria Park and other parts of the town, and some old houses have been demolished in East Fordington parish—formerly 667 houses were in Fordington outside the Borough; the number of inhabited houses at the last census taking was 1830, giving five to a house.

Births.—The total number of births registered was 199 (males 91) (against 214 in 1909, 211 in 1908, 228 in 1907, 229 in 1906, 228 in 1905, 245 in 1904, 224 in 1903, 222 in 1902, and 249 in 1901). The *birth-rate* therefore was 18 (against 19.9 in 1909, and 20 in 1908). The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1910 was 24.8 per 1000, which was .8 per 1000 below the rate in 1909, and lower than the rate in any other rate on record; compared with the average rate in the ten years 1900—9, this birth-rate showed a decrease of 2.7 per 1000. For comparison the following birth-rates (per 1000 of the population) of the principal foreign cities are given for the fourth quarter of 1910:—

Highest—Trieste, 31.9; St. Petersburg, 30.5; Bucarest, 30.5.
Lowest—Brussels, 16.1; Prague, 16.1; Paris, 16.9.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the Borough was 140; from these must be deducted 27 deaths of non-residents, and to them must be added four deaths of residents who died outside this district, making 117 deaths (of these 59 were males) which give a *death-rate* of only 10.6 per 1000, exactly the same as in 1909; only once during the past 30 years has it been lower, viz:—in 1903, when it reached the lowest point, 9.4 per 1000. This death-rate compares most favourably with that of England and Wales, which in 1910 was 13.4 per 1000; this was 1.1 per 1000 below the rate in 1909, and lower than the rate in any other year on record; compared with the average rate in the ten years 1900—1909, the death-rate in England and Wales in 1910 showed a decrease of 2.4 per 1000. These are the highest and lowest death-rates of some of the principal foreign cities from the Registrar General's returns for the last quarter of 1910:—

Highest—Moscow, 24.4; Bucarest, 22.5; Rio-de-Janeiro, 22.
Lowest—Christiania, 11.3; Antwerp, 12.2; Amsterdam, 12.5.

London birth-rate, 22.9. Death-rate, 14.7.

The following is the death-rate since my appointment in 1879 :—

1880, 18.9	1881, 15.7	1882, 18.1	1883, 15.9
1884, 15.9	1885, 16	1886, 21.7	1887, 17
1888, 13.8	1889, 14.6	1890, 16.3	1891, 16.1
1892, 19.5	1893, 15.5	1894, 12.8	1895, 13.6
1896, 15.7	1897, 11.4	1898, 14.6	1899, 13.8
1900, 10.9	1901, 15	1902, 12.7	1903, 9.4
1904, 11.2	1905, 11.5	1906, 12.8	1907, 14
1908, 11.9	1909, 10.6	1910, 10.6	

It will be seen from the above figures that the average for the first three years, 17.5 per 1000, has been reduced to 11 per 1000 for the last three years; and that the average for the first ten years, 16.7 per 1000, has been reduced to 11.9 per 1000 for the last ten years. The death-rate has been reduced more than 50 per cent. since 1886.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death was 46, against 44 in 1909, 45 in 1908, and 43 in 1907.

Zymotic Death-rate.—The Zymotic death-rate is nil, no fatal case having occurred from small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, typhoid fever, or diarrhoea. In 1909 it was .8 per 1000. The rate for the 136 smaller towns of England and Wales in 1910 was .8 per 1000.

Child Mortality.—The rate of child mortality measured by the number of deaths of children over one year of age and under five years was 25 per 1000 births, against 12 in 1909.

Infant Mortality.—The rate of Infant Mortality measured by the number of deaths under one year of age per 1000 births was 100, against 88 in 1909. The rate for 130 small towns of England and Wales was 104.

Chief Causes of Deaths.—The chief causes of the deaths were: Heart diseases 14, cancer 8, tubercular diseases 8, consumption 5, pneumonia 5; 17 were 70 years of age, 12 over 80, and 7 over 90.

Death-rate and Analysis of Mortality, Annual Rate per 1000 living :—

	Birth rate per 1000.	Death- rate per 1000.	Principal Zymotic Diseases. Cols. 4 to 10.	Small- pox. (4)	Measles. (5)	Scarlet Fever. (6)	Diphtheria. (7)	Whooping Cough (8)	Fever. (9)	Diarrhoea. (10)	Deaths under one year per 1600 Births. (11)
Columns—(1)	(2)	(3)									
England and Wales '10	24.8	13.4	.99	..	.23	.06	.12	.24	.05	.29	106
The 136 Small Towns	23.7	12.4	.88	..	.16	.06	.11	.24	.05	.26	104
Dorchester, 1896 ..	25.8	14.9	2.2	..	1.8	.1	..	.2	.1	..	130
„ 1897 ..	21.5	11.4	.4	..	..	.2	..	.1	.1	..	120
„ 1898 ..	21.1	14.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
„ 1899 ..	20.6	13.8	.3	..	..	..	.1	..	..	.2	158
„ 1900 ..	19.5	10.9	.5	..	.3	..	..	..	..	.2	107
„ 1901 ..	25.5	15	.6	..	.6	..	..	..	..	..	148
„ 1902 ..	22.2	12.7	.5	..	.5	..	..	..	..	..	90
„ 1903 ..	22.8	9.4	.2	..	..	..	..	.1	.1	..	52
„ 1904 ..	23.7	11.2	.1	..	..	..	..	.1	..	..	73
„ 1905 ..	21.7	11.5	.1	..	..	..	..	.1	..	..	81
„ 1906 ..	21.8	12.8	.4	..	.2	.1	..	.1	..	..	60
„ 1907 ..	21.7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100
„ 1908 ..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
„ 1909 ..	19.9	10.6	.8	..	.2	.1	.2	..	..	.2	88
„ 1910 ..	18	10.6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100

Diseased Animals.—The following extract from the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Weymouth for 1910, having been noticed in the local press, deserves at my hands as Medical Officer of Health of Dorchester, some explanation. “They (sheep) had been bought in the open Market for 10/-, 3/- and 7/- respectively. Their condition was so manifest that I fail to understand the Market Authorities at Dorchester allowing them to enter.” Now the Market Authorities at Dorchester (and I presume elsewhere), have no power to pick and choose what they shall sell and what they shall not, which one would have thought was perfectly obvious to everybody. Things must remain as they are until a bye-law or a law has been passed enabling a veterinary surgeon to examine every animal at the entrance gate and refuse the diseased ones, as is at present done—and has been about a year at Dorchester Market in the case of pigs by order from the County Council, but this refers to swine fever, &c.—I, myself, have seen recently a sheep sold in Dorchester Market for less than 3/-; supposing now, in my endeavour to prevent this sheep being disposed of for human food, possession had been taken of it with the view of getting a magistrate to condemn it, I should have made myself a “laughing stock,” for the owner would at once have said, I have bought or sold this sheep, as the case might have been, for feeding dogs or pigs and the skin for what it would fetch, in what an invidious position I should have found myself! It is no good to bark unless you can bite. But instead, I drew the attention of the Sanitary Inspector to this sheep and he traced it into the neighbouring rural district, but as neither of us had power of entry, I telegraphed to the Medical Officer of the district and he traced it to its destination—dogs’ food.

Further, I may add that the fact of sheep never falling a prey to the tubercle bacillus is one of the well-known arguments so often urged in favour of the open-air treatment of consumption, for as we all know, sheep are always out-doors winter and summer.

The emaciation of sheep—which is mistaken for tuberculosis—is due to an internal parasite which causes diarrhoea, &c.; it is for this reason that Medical Officers and Sanitary Inspectors endeavour to trace such sheep to see that the internal parts are not used to make sausages lest the parasite should gain access to some part of a human body wherein it might produce a diarrhoea, if not already killed in cooking, but certainly it would never cause the dreaded disease—consumption. Now, the case is different with cattle, because they are often housed; then, if one should happen to be suffering from consumption, then the others breathing the contaminated air would soon contract it—so the disease spreads. One can easily see, by noticing the long rough coats of cows, those that have been kept out of doors, for those that are housed soon lose their hair—the skin becoming quite smooth, which is just what one would expect, for nature having no use for the hair whilst the animals are in-doors, it does not grow until the cows are again sent out to graze. The reason why they are kept in-doors out of the cold is to increase the yield of milk. I have read that no less than one-third of a Royal herd were more or less tuberculous, what then shall we say is the condition of cattle brought to Dorchester and other markets? In my opinion, if they were tested with Tuberculin, more than 40 per cent. would show the re-action, but even if there is tubercle in the internal organs, the law allows the beast to be sold for human food—if not too much diseased—the affected organs of course being discarded.

When I was a delegate representing Dorchester at the Congress held in London on Tuberculosis, Professor Koch—the discoverer of tubercle bacillus—said it was impossible for consumption to be contracted from cows: with this Professor Sims Woodhead did not agree. Professor Mc Fadyean says that it is exceedingly doubtful whether any cases of pulmonary consumption in man ever originated in bovine tuberculosis. Professor Dunstau, of the Royal Dick Veterinary College, is of opinion that “a tuberculous animal is a source of danger to its neighbours. Animals that react to the tuberculin test ought to be isolated and fed for the butcher,” and also he says, “the methods of dealing with the flesh of tuberculous animals in some parts of this country probably err on the side of too great stringency.” I wish particularly to commend to the Sanitary Authority the following conclusion from an interim report of the present Royal Commission, being of a profound importance, and is given *verbatim*:—“A very considerable amount of disease and loss of life, especially among the young, must be attributed to the consumption of cows’ milk containing tubercle bacilli.” Now, until the milk is tested for these bacilli, one can only recommend that *all* milk should be heated either for

15 minutes at 65° C.
5 ” ” 80° C.
or 1 minute ” 95° C.

Anything short of those temperatures for those lengths of time would not suffice to destroy the bacilli.

In the case of meat, it may be added, that whatever the temperature on the surface of a joint of meat may be, the interior rarely reaches 60° F., in other words, if reliance is to be placed on cooking, the joint should not exceed 6 lbs. in weight.

Probably compulsory notification of consumption will not be delayed many more years; as an instance of what notification has shown, it may be said that there are no less than 3,500 cases of consumption in Glasgow alone, and in that place 1,200 die annually from it. The Local Government Board are, I am glad to say, taking this scourge in hand with the view of treating the disease with the help of Local Authorities—the action of the Board, will no doubt, be on a comprehensive scale.

On complaint being made to a dealer who was deemed to be the owner of a tuberculous cow, permission was given to the Inspector R.S.P.C.A. to have the animal slaughtered; after seeing that the slaughterhouse was at once properly disinfected, I then examined the carcass and found tuberculous lesions in the intestines which were the cause of the emaciation. Then another person claimed the animal and took away some of the internal organs for examination by a Veterinary Surgeon, and placed the affair in the hands of a solicitor, but nothing further was heard of the case.

The rôle played by flies in spreading consumption is important, for it has been proved that when they have been caught in the open air their bodies do not contain any tubercle bacilli, the opposite being the case when they have been captured in the wards of a Sanatorium, to say nothing of those bacilli carried on the outside of their bodies and on their legs.

After reading in his report that the Medical Officer of Health at Weymouth fails to understand why the Market Authorities at Dorchester allow such sheep to enter, one has not far to look for what he deems to be the remedy, for it is given in the self-same report when he says that: “There is only one way to regulate the meat traffic, and that is for the Local Authority to erect a public abattoir.”—This was my recommendation as far back as 1901, *vide* my annual report for that year, but even this would not be sufficient, for it cannot be expected that auctioneers will refuse to sell anything, good, bad or indifferent. As this extract concerning the sale of diseased sheep in Dorchester Market has been commented on by the local press of Weymouth, it is clearly my duty to send this reply both to the Editor of the paper and the Medical Officer of Health of Weymouth, trusting that the former will give on behalf of Dorchester the same circulation to this explanation as was given to the extract quoted—for neither of these authorities of course do I hold a brief—yet, doubtless the Editor and the Health Officer will be pleased to know from me that both the Market Authorities and Sanitary Authority of Dorchester are doing their best to suppress this trade in “slink” meat. It may be interesting to add that during the past two years at least the death-rate from consumption in Dorchester has been less than half of what it was in Weymouth, and that out of the 12 urban districts in the County only three show fewer deaths from Phthisis, and that this County town is one of the three with the lowest death-rate, between 10 and 11 per 1000, as will be seen from the tables in this report.

The following table shows how the death-rate of this Borough compares with the other eleven Urban Sanitary Districts:—

Dorchester—Death-rate between 10 and 11 per 1000

Portland	”	”	”	”	”
Swauage	”	”	”	”	”
Shaftesbury	”	”	11 and 12	”	”
Sherborne	”	”	”	”	”
Weymouth	”	”	12 and 13	”	”
Lyme Regis	”	”	13 and 14	”	”
Poole	”	”	”	”	”
Wareham	”	”	”	”	”
Bridport	”	”	14 and 15	”	”
Blandford	”	”	17 ” 18	”	”
Wimborne	”	”	18 ” 19	”	”

Food and Drugs.—A dairyman was fined £1 and costs for selling milk adulterated with 13 per cent. of added water; all other samples were found to be genuine.

School Closure.—West Fordington School was closed on account of mumps from 12th to 21st December, and many children have been kept away from school, either because they were suffering from some infectious disease—not notifiable—or on account of there being infectious disease in their homes. The masters and mistresses of the various schools notify these cases to me according to Regulations: by so doing one can the more readily detect the origin of infectious disease.

Sanitary Inspector.—Mr. E. Groombridge, the new Sanitary Inspector, who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, is getting the work well in hand, having commenced his duties on September 1st, and is of great assistance to me; under the new general order he has reported to me on his work since his appointment, noting amongst other things:—

- (a) The number and nature of inspections made by him.
- (b) The number of notices served distinguishing statutory from informal notices.
- (c) The result of the service of such notices.

Town Planning Act.—Under Section 17 (1) of this Act, 24 inspections of houses were made and dealt with after having been reported to the Committee specially appointed by the Council for that purpose, the details of which are to be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report attached hereto.

Infectious Disease.—Only seven notifications were received against 53 in 1909, and 121 in 1908. Diphtheria, erysipelas and scarlet fever each accounted for two cases and enteric fever for one.

Diphtheria.—Both very mild cases, the Medical men in attendance did not even deem it necessary to use any serum.

Erysipelas.—One was a slight case, but the other, owing to being complicated with heart disease, proved fatal, notwithstanding the nursing at the County Hospital.

Scarlet Fever.—The first of these two cases was not seen till the child was desquamating, consequently the only other child in the house was attacked before medical aid was sought, then it was too late to remove them to the hospital.

Enteric Fever.—One very mild imported case caused by a child when away on holiday drinking from a contaminated vessel.

There was no further spreading of any of these seven cases beyond the six houses in which they originated.

The Council supply, through me, all the practitioners with serum for diphtheria cases.

Although this district has been nearly free from infectious disease during the year we must not forget that measles show a tendency to an excessive prevalence every third year and scarlet fever every second year.

Hospital.—The following table shows how the death-rate per 1000 living from the chief preventable diseases has been lowered during two periods of 25 years, in England and Wales:—

	1861-65.	1886-90.	1910.
Smallpox	·21	·01	·00
Measles	·45	·46	·23
Scarlet Fever ..	·98	·24	·06
Enteric Fever ..	·92	·17	·05
Whooping Cough ..	·51	·44	·24
Diphtheria	·24	·16	·12
Phthisis	2·52	1·16	1·1

No case was admitted during the year. The Institution remains empty, the last patient was discharged June 8th, 1909. This is the first year it has been without a patient (since it was opened) for twelve months together, as will be seen from the following:—

	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever.	Total.
1896 ..	1	—	—	20	21
1897 ..	1	—	—	28	29
1898 ..	1	—	1	2	4
1899 ..	—	—	—	9	9
1900 ..	1	—	1	5	7
1901 ..	—	—	—	46	46
1902 ..	—	1	1	29	22
1903 ..	4	—	—	5	9
1904 ..	1	—	—	2	3
1905 ..	—	—	—	14	14
1906 ..	1	—	—	40	41
1907 ..	—	—	—	28	28
1908 ..	—	—	—	46	46
1909 ..	—	—	—	17	17
1910 ..	—	—	—	—	—

Total deaths:—Scarlet Fever, 4; Diphtheria, 2 (three under two years of age).

Total number of cases treated since Hospital was opened in 1896—296.

If any case of typhoid should occur it would either be treated at home or in the County Hospital, as the Town Council do not now admit these cases into this Isolation Hospital.

No infectious diseases are admitted from outlying districts, the medical men in the Borough can attend any of their private patients in this Hospital when necessity arises, and are allowed to have their own nurses.

The Matron, Mrs. Davies, who was formerly a trained nurse at the Dorset County Hospital and elsewhere, continues to give entire satisfaction, and so does her husband who looks after the Hospital grounds. No lady visitor has been appointed since Miss. Lock resigned. Disinfection is carried out by means of Formalin spray, sulphur fumigation, etc, there being no steam disinfecter—although this matter has been considered by the Council on more occasions than one. The closets are now supplied with water from the town mains and have been more than a year, this is a great improvement on Moule's system, which however answers very well in villages when proper attention is given to the closets.

Water Supply.—The water supply is excellent both as regards quality and quantity. The well is 210 feet deep, the last 90 feet being a boring through chalk. There is no possible source of contamination as the Council very wisely purchased the adjoining land many years ago to prevent it being sold for building purposes, all the town is supplied from this well, the one at the Brewery and the Steam Laundry not being used for drinking purposes. A sample of the water was analyzed this month with the following very satisfactory result.—

			Grains per gallon.
Ammonia	..	..	None.
Albuminoid, ditto	..	..	·0014
Nitrogen as nitrates and nitrites	..	..	·007
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours at 80° F	..	..	·0084
Ditto in 15 minutes	..	..	·005
Chlorine	..	..	1·3
Total hardness 16°	}	..	Clarke's
Permanent ditto 4°		..	Scale.
Colorless and clear re-action		..	Faintly alkaline.

Phthisis.—Only one case under 1908 Regulations has been notified, this patient received proper attention. The deaths from Phthisis were only 5, the same as the previous year, giving a death-rate of only ·46 per 1000, against 1·1 per 1000 for England and Wales. The following table shows how Dorchester Borough compares in this respect with the other eleven Urban Sanitary Districts of Dorset.

			Deaths.	Phthisis death-rate per 1000.
Lyme Regis	..	..	nil	nil
Wimborne	..	..	nil	nil
Swanage	..	..	1	·2
Dorchester	..	..	5	·4
Wareham	..	...	1	·5
Portland	..	..	9	·7
Shaftesbury	..	..	2	·9
Weymouth	..	..	23	1
Poole	..	..	36	1·1
Sherborne	..	..	7	1·1
Blandford	..	..	5	1·3
Bridport	..	..	13	2·1
			102	Average ·77

Cancer.—Having written somewhat fully on cancer in my Report on the condition of the Rural District of Dorchester, which stands in the proud position of having by far the lowest death-rate from this disease (410 per million) of all the twelve Rural districts of Dorset, it need only be said here that since 1850 the disease has been on the increase throughout the country, during which time the death-rate amongst the males has trebled, and amongst the females it has doubled, giving a yearly death-roll of over 30,000. It has been found that one in every eleven males over 35 years of age die from it, and one death in every seven deaths of females over 35 years of age is due to it. During the ten years, 1891-1900, the four highest death-rates from cancer were:—

London	..	..	2759 per million.
Huntingdonshire	..	..	2682 „
North Wales	..	..	2477 „
Northumberland	..	..	2450 „

and the four lowest were:—

Dorsetshire	..	..	2024 „
Buckinghamshire	..	..	1995 „
Wiltshire	..	..	1996 „
Monmouthshire	..	..	1874 „

Compared with the above, the twelve Urban Districts of Dorset work out for 1909 thus :—

		Population.	Number of deaths.	Rate per million.
Shaftesbury	..	.. 2215	1	450
Portland	..	.. 12750	7	540
Weymouth	..	.. 23000	13	580
Dorchester	..	.. 10726	7	650
Bridport	..	.. 5975	4	670
Sherborne	..	.. 6090	5	820
Poole	..	.. 33500	32	950
Blandford	..	.. 3652	4	1100
Wimborne	..	.. 3750	4	1100
Swanage	..	.. 4100	5	1200
Wareham	..	.. 2000	3	1500
Lyme Regis	..	.. 2116	4	1800

The houses in which the seven cases in Dorchester occurred were disinfected.

Factory Act.—Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Home Work.

INSPECTIONS INCLUDING THOSE MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Workshops. (Including Workshop Laundries)	Inspections.	Written Notices.
..	76	.. 3

DEFECTS FOUND.

	Found.	Remedied
Want of cleanliness	.. 10	.. 10
Sanitary Accommodation, unsuitable or defective	.. 1	.. 1
Total	.. 11	.. 11

HOME WORK.

	Lists.	Con- tractors.	Work men.	Inspections of Outworkers' Premises.
Wearing apparel, making, &c.	.. 2	3	4	14

OTHER MATTERS.

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	..	3
Underground Bakehouses in use at end of year	..	3
Workshops on the Register at end of year	..	157

Trade.	Number	Number of Rooms Registered.	Trade.	Number	Number of Rooms Registered.
Bakers	14	14	Milliners	9	9
Basket Makers	1	3	Millwright	1	1
Blacksmiths	13	13	Painters	8	9
Bootmakers	10	10	Picture Framers	1	1
Bottler	1	1	Plumbers	6	6
Cabinet Makers	10	10	Polishers	2	3
Carpenters	13	13	Saddlers	5	6
Coachbuilder	1	1	Tailors	17	19
Copper	1	1	Tent Maker	1	1
Cycle Makers	3	6	Tin-plate workers	5	5
Dressmakers	22	30	Upholsterers	3	4
Engineers	1	1	Wheelwrights	2	2
Glaziers	2	2			
Jewellers	2	2		157	180
Landdresses	3	7			

The above list is kept by Mr. Groombridge, the Sanitary Inspector.

Ice Cream Vendor.—The Ice Cream Vendor has left the town, living at Bridport, but comes here occasionally.

Hops, &c.—There is no imported labour employed in the District in picking hops, fruit or peas.

Houses of Working Classes.—A few cottages here and there have been built. On the whole, there is nothing of which I can complain, as regards the housing of the working classes.

Sewage Works—These are superintended by Mr. P. T. Harrison, A.M.I.C.E., who has recently built an experimental sewage tank which appears to give satisfaction. This matter is still under the consideration of the Council.

Birth Notification.—The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted.

Midwives.—The following are the names and addresses of the six midwives practising in this Urban District:—

Mrs. Burt, Short's Lane.
Mrs. Lester, 1, Hillside Terrace
Mrs. Miller, 6, Marian Terrace.
Mrs. Paine, 3, Hillside Terrace.
Mrs. Prime, "The Old Ship" Inn.
Miss Swaine, 6, Salisbury Villas

Only the last two hold certificates of examination, the others were registered by virtue of having been in practice previous to the passing of the Act. One or two do most of the work, the others do not undertake very many cases.

I visit the Markets twice a week.

Slaughter Houses.—There are six registered slaughter-houses which have been duly inspected at times of slaughtering and at other times, but no meat unfit for food has been found therein. They have been periodically whitewashed.

There is no inspector with a Special Certificate in meat inspection.

Anthrax.—There have been no cases of anthrax or glanders.

No arrangements have been made for the examination of dairy cows by a veterinary surgeon, which would be most desirable. Only one tuberculous cow was slaughtered, I saw that the animal was properly buried with disinfectants.

Cowkeepers.—There are eight cowkeepers, about 150 cows which have been inspected and 20 purveyors of milk. Samples of milk (one from each purveyor) taken, both whilst in course of delivery and at the shops, are brought to me for examination by the Sanitary Inspector every quarter.

Bakehouses.—These have been whitewashed as usual and inspected. Three of them are underground, but they are kept in a cleanly state.

Rainfall and Sunshine.—The total rainfall was 40in. The Meteorological table is appended. The rain gauge is an 8in. "Glaisher," kept at the Waterworks. It is 315 feet above the sea level. An inch of rain is equivalent to 100 tons per acre. The monthly amount of sunshine is (also seen in Mr. P. T. Harrison's table) measured by the Campbell Stokes Recorder. Total hours of sunshine 1731.

Matters for Congratulation.—1. Excellent water supply both as regards quality and quantity—see analysis.

2. Average age at death raised from 44 to 46.

3. Death-rate from the chief preventible diseases reduced from '2 per 1000 to nil.

4. Low death-rate from phthisis—only '46 per 1000.

5. Cancer death-rate kept at the same low figure, '65 per 1000.

6. The general death-rate only 10·6 per 1000—the same as in 1909. (The death-rate for England and Wales being 13·4 per 1000). As is seen in one of the tables in the report, the death-rate is one of the three lowest of all the twelve Urban Sanitary Districts in the County of Dorset.

Lyme Regis—Mr James Spurr.

Area.—1239 acres.

Population.—(Census 1901) 2095. Estimated to the middle of 1910, 2129.

Births.—Registered 38—14 males and 24 females. Birth-rate 17·8 per 1000. Birth-rate for 1909, 13·7 per 1000.

The notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted in the district.

Deaths.—Registered 36—18 males and 18 females. Death-rate 16·9 per 1000. Death-rate for 1909, 13·7 per 1000.

The average age at death was 58·6.

The ages at which death occurred were:—

Under 1 year ..	..	..	..	..	2
Between 1 year and 5 years	..	..	..	..	1
" 5 " 15 "	..	..	..	..	0
" 15 " 25 "	..	..	..	..	1
" 25 " 65 "	..	..	..	..	13
Over 65 ..	..	..	..	..	19

Of those over 65 years, 10 were between 70 and 80; while 4 were between 80 and 90 years.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Lyme Regis (Urban)—continued.

The various causes of death were :—

Senile decay	4	Bronchitis	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	3	Malignant Diseases	6
Heart Disease	5	Accident	2
Phthisis	3	Other causes	11

Two deaths occurred in the Cottage Hospital, one from the district and one from outside.

Three inquests were held during the year.

Zymotic Mortality.—Whooping Cough caused one death. Zymotic Mortality .4 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.—Two children under one year of age died during the year, giving an Infant Mortality of 52.6 per 1000 births.

The Infant Mortality for 1909 was 68.9 per 1000 births.

There are no Health Visitors in the district.

Prevalence of Diseases—Notification.—Ten cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Diphtheria and one of Erysipelas were notified during the year. The first case of Scarlet Fever occurred in March, in a cottage close to where a case of the same disease had occurred the previous December, so that was probably the origin of the infection. There were four cases (three in one house) in April, two in May and one in each of the three following months, so that this outbreak could scarcely be called an epidemic. The type of disease was generally mild and caused no deaths. No child living in an infected house was allowed to attend school during the illness. By your sanction I had printed some leaflets containing instructions about isolation and disinfection, which were given to the person in charge of the infected houses. The case of diphtheria occurred at the end of October in a house in Broad Street: the cause was attributed to some of the drains having been opened recently for repairs. The Sanitary Inspector inspected the drains and said that the repairs had been done in a satisfactory manner. The child recovered and there was no spread of the disease.

Isolation in all cases was carried out in a fairly satisfactory manner, and every room, where the sick person was nursed, was disinfected by A. B. Hallett, one of your workmen, under my instructions; this was also done in the houses where deaths occurred from phthisis.

Water Supply.—This is satisfactory as far as it goes. The petition presented to you in the autumn for extending the supply up to the Sidmouth Road is under consideration. The main was extended up Colway Lane as far as Mr. Dewe's house by 3in. iron pipes. The extra demand in August and September, in consequence of visitors, was easily met, probably in consequence of the rainy season, when less water was used for watering gardens.

Sewerage and Drainage, Excrement Disposal.—Early in the year the sewer, where it crosses Pool's Court, was choked and gave much trouble. A new sewer (6in. earthenware pipe) was laid in Pool's Court, and to this was connected a closet drain, which formerly discharged into the dung pit of the stables; a flushing tank was also fitted to this closet.

The drains from cottages in East Cliff have again been choked, on account of the falling cliff breaking or dislocating the pipes where they discharge over the cliff. I almost think a cess-pit in the gardens, if properly managed, would be preferable to the present defective plan.

A complaint was made in February about the overflowing cess-pit in Ware Lane, which was met by emptying the pit. I think this should be done more frequently, say three or four times a year.

Isolation Hospital, Disinfection.—There has been no occasion to use the two rooms at the Cobb, which are retained for infectious cases coming in by ships.

Disinfection is done by washing floors, etc., with disinfectants—e.g., Carbolic Acid or Lysol—by boiling linen sheets, etc., and fumigating with a Formalin lamp.

Rainfall and Sunshine.—The Rousdon report is . "Rainfall for the year 37.75 inches, or 5.58 inches above the average of 10 years. There were 204 rainy days, which is 30 above the average. Sunshine for the year was 1537 hours, or 132 below the average." I measured 37.63 inches on 199 days.

Housing of the Working Classes.—One new cottage has been built during the year—21, Church Street—and more are sadly needed. One cottage—45, Silver Street—was closed as being unfit for habitation in consequence of its dirty condition, and one case of over-crowding—14, Millgreen—was reported and remedied. During the inspection of School children, it was found that many of them had verminous heads. In October the County School Medical Officer wrote to me stating that it was proposed to close the schools for a week, so that the infected children and the school premises could be cleansed: at the same time asking if my Sanitary Authority would issue notices requiring the cleansing of those houses from which the verminous children came. Sixteen cottages were inspected—those being selected from which the worst cases came—of these, nine were found to be clean; but in the remaining seven the children's bedrooms and bedding were in a very dirty condition. Notices were accordingly served on the parents requesting them to put their houses in order. At this inspection we found that many water closets had no flushing tanks and were consequently very dirty; therefore, notices were served on the owners to supply this very necessary addition. I hold that all water closets should be fitted with flushing tanks.

The Schools were closed three times during the year—in February from 9th till 14th, for Influenza; in July (Infants) from 11th till 22nd, for Whooping Cough; in October from 27th till November 2nd, for disinfecting and cleansing during the time when the children's heads were being cleansed.

Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses and Milk-houses.—These were all inspected and found to be kept in good order: all are periodically white-washed inside, and are supplied with town water. The bake-house in Bridge Street, which has been disused since 1904, has now become occupied. The cow-stall used by F. Restorick has been improved by raising the roof, enlarging the floor-space and providing better drainage.

The following questions are asked by the Local Government Board in their letter to the Town Clerk:—

How many slaughter Houses in the District?—Three.
 Whether they are visited at times of slaughtering?—No.
 Whether there is an Inspector with a special certificate in meat inspection?—No.
 Whether any carcasses were found tuberculous?—No.
 Whether any action is taken by the Council or other Authority in causing cows to be examined by a veterinary surgeon for tuberculosis?—No.

Common Lodging House and Fried Fish Shops.—These are both very well managed. The bedrooms and bedding at the lodging house are always found exceedingly clean and tidy.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are four factories (including the Steam Laundry) and thirteen workshops in the town. These were all found, on inspection, to be generally well managed. No sanitary defects and no cases of over-crowding were discovered. No homework is done from any workshop. No offensive trades are carried on in the town.

Poole—Mr. G. H. Carrington.

It gives me pleasure to report that the death-rate and infantile-mortality rate are much lower than in 1909. The zymotic death-rate is a little higher, this is due to an epidemic of whooping-cough amongst children. The birth-rate is lower than in 1909.

Vital Statistics.—The Borough of Poole is situated on the south-eastern limits of the County of Dorset, and has the largest population in the County. The area of the Borough is 7,930 acres (not including 2,200 acres of tidal water and foreshore), distributed amongst the different parishes as follows:—

Parish of	St. James'	..	..	Acres.
	Longfleet	..	..	152
	Parkstone	..	..	1265
	Branksome	..	..	2838
	Hamworthy	..	..	1077
				2598
				<u>7930</u>

Borough of Poole (less inland water) 7852 acres.

Poole lies for the greater part of its extent upon the northern shore of Poole Harbour. The Borough is bounded on the south-east by the English Channel and the Borough of Bournemouth, on the north and north-east by the Rural District of Poole, and on the south and west by the Rural District of Wareham.

Geology.—The district as a whole is situated on Bagshot beds, belonging to the Eocene period of the Tertiary formation, but the parish of St. James rests upon alluvium. The parishes of St. James' and Hamworthy are very low lying, and the ground water is very near the surface. Parkstone, Longfleet and Branksome are situated on ground of considerable elevation, Constitution Hill being 220 feet above sea-level.

Industries.—Poole is a port of considerable importance and magnitude. Its imports increase year by year. The foreign trade is principally with Russia, Sweden and Norway, Germany and France. Timber, grain, moss-litter and oil-cake are the principal imports. The exports from Poole are Potter's clay; there is a coasting trade in clay, corn, flour and timber.

The chief industries of the district are pottery and tiles, sanitary pipes and bricks, fishing, timber, twine factory, iron foundry and breweries.

The climate and soil closely resemble those of Bournemouth. The long reaches of salt water running far up into the land temper the heat of summer and the cold of winter. Fog, snow and frost are seldom experienced.

The number of houses and the population of the Borough at the census of 1901 were as follows:—

	No. of Houses.	Population.	Population estimated
	1901.	1901.	to middle of 1910.
St. James'	1031	7670	8050
Longfleet	915	4159	5300
Parkstone	1338	6550	8500
Branksome	2170	8095	10500
Hamworthy	242	1084	1650
	<u>5696</u>	<u>27558</u>	<u>34000</u>

Average number of persons per house 4·8

Population.—I have estimated the population to the middle of 1910 as 34,000. It will be interesting to see how these figures compare with the 1911 Census.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 884—454 boys and 430 girls, including 52 illegitimate births. The birth rate for 1910 was 26 per 1000 of the estimated population, a decrease, as compared with 26·6 in 1908, and 27·8 in 1909. The natural increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths, in 1910 was 450, in 1909 467, and in 1908 421.

The Births registered in the different parishes:—

				Legitimate	Illegitimate.
St. James	..	..	..	189	12
Longfleet	..	..	..	107	18
Parkstone	..	..	..	204	7
Branksome	..	..	..	294	15
Hamworthy	..	..	..	38	—
				<hr/> 832	<hr/> 52

The Union is situated in the Longfleet District.

The Monthly returns of Births were as follows:—

	St. James.	Lougfleet.	Parkstone.	Branksome.	Hamworthy.	M.	F.	Total.
January ..	12	7	19	21	—	34	25	59
February ..	17	11	11	34	4	34	43	77
March ..	17	5	13	14	6	28	27	55
April ..	17	14	12	25	4	27	45	72
May ..	16	10	25	23	1	44	31	75
June ..	21	16	20	26	3	37	49	86
July ..	24	13	20	26	1	44	40	84
August ..	21	5	13	32	5	38	38	76
September ..	7	7	21	26	3	32	32	64
October ..	12	14	15	27	4	40	32	72
November ..	18	7	29	27	7	52	36	88
December ..	19	16	13	28	—	44	32	76
	<hr/> 201	<hr/> 125	<hr/> 211	<hr/> 309	<hr/> 38	<hr/> 454	<hr/> 430	<hr/> 884

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during 1910 was 434—214 males and 220 females. The death-rate was 12·7 per 1000 of the estimated population, and the corrected death-rate, after deducting eight deaths of non-residents occurring in the public institutions (the Union Infirmary, the Cornelia Hospital and the Alderney Isolation Hospital) was 12·5 per 1000. This compares most favourably with previous years: in 1906, the death-rate was 15·1; in 1907, 13·1; in 1908, 13·8; and in 1909, 13·9. The average age at death was 40 years, as compared with 44 years in 1909, 42 in 1908, 43 in 1907 and 40 in 1906.

The monthly returns of deaths were as follows:—

			Males.	Females.	Total.
January ..	..	..	17	19	36
February ..	..	..	27	28	55
March ..	..	..	25	14	39
April ..	..	..	13	31	44
May ..	..	..	19	20	39
June ..	..	..	16	8	24
July ..	..	..	12	17	29
August ..	..	..	14	18	32
September ..	..	..	18	6	24
October ..	..	..	15	22	37
November ..	..	..	21	19	40
December ..	..	..	17	18	35
			<hr/> 214	<hr/> 220	<hr/> 434

Deaths arranged according to ages:—

		1910.	1909.	1908.
Under 12 months ..	..	73	83	87
Between 1 and 5 years ..	..	43	40	43
„ 5 and 15 years ..	..	22	12	26
„ 15 „ 25 „ ..	..	21	9	13
„ 25 „ 65 „ ..	..	136	156	135
65 and upwards ..	..	139	166	153
		<hr/> 484	<hr/> 466	<hr/> 457

Deaths.—Monthly returns arranged for different parishes.

	Poole.	Longfleet.	Parkstone.	Hamworthy.	Branksome.
January ..	11	5	7	2	11
February ..	14	12	13	2	14
March ..	10	7	7	3	12
April ..	6	11	8	—	19
May ..	8	6	12	1	12
June ..	8	5	2	1	8
July ..	7	9	8	—	5
August ..	6	5	9	2	10
September ..	5	8	3	—	8
October ..	4	4	8	3	18
November ..	6	14	8	2	10
December ..	6	8	7	1	13
	<u>91</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>92</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>140</u>

The various parishes and Hospitals were credited with the following number of deaths during the last six years :—

	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
St. James' ..	128	113	115	92	96	87
Longfleet ..	57	45	40	54	56	52
Parkstone ..	103	112	123	110	116	92
Branksome ..	100	142	78	132	138	130
Hamworthy ..	11	14	18	12	11	17
Poole Harbour ..	2	2	1	—	2	4
Alderney Isolation Hospital	2	2	11	9	6	10
Cornelia and Union Hospitals	41	55	41	48	41	42
	<u>444</u>	<u>485</u>	<u>427</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>466</u>	<u>434</u>

At the end of this report will be found in :—

Table I.—The vital statistics of the Borough for the years 1906-1910.

Table II.—Vital statistics of the various parishes.

Table IV.—Causes of death at all ages are tabulated and the parishes in which those deaths of residents occurred.

Table V.—The infantile mortality, deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

I give here the table prepared by the Registrar-General to enable Medical Officers of Health to compare their statistics with those of the country at large.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Annual Birth-rates, Death-rates, and the Death-rates from the Principal Epidemic Diseases.

Annual Rates per 1000 Living.						
	Births.	Deaths		Principal Epidemic Diseases.	Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.	
		Crude.	Corrected			
England and Wales ..	24.8	13.4	13.4	0.99	106	
77 great towns ..	25.0	13.4	14.3	1.23	115	
136 small towns ..	23.7	12.4	12.9	0.88	104	
England and Wales, less the 213 towns	25.0	13.6	12.8	0.74	96	
Poole ..	26.0	12.7	12.5	0.94	82.5	

Phthisis.—38 deaths were certified from phthisis, as compared with 36 in 1909, 41 in 1908, 32 in 1907, and 41 in 1906. The death-rate was 1.12 per 1000, in 1909 1.07, and in 1908 1.24. Other tubercular diseases, including tubercular meningitis and tubercular peritonitis (chiefly occurring in the first year of life) caused 8 deaths, as compared with 10 in 1909, and 17 in 1908, giving a death-rate of .23 per 1000. The death-rate from all tubercular diseases was 1.30.

Under the Public Health Act (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1908, all cases of phthisis have to be notified to me—(1) when discovered by Parochial Medical Officers—(2) on their admission or re-admission to the Workhouse by the Workhouse Medical Officers—(3) on their discharge by the Masters of the Workhouses—(4) or change of address by the Relieving Officers.

Twelve cases have been notified during the year, five were removed to the Union Infirmary, two died, three are able to get about, and two are getting worse.

Visits are paid to those outside the Union Infirmary at intervals; cards are left, giving instruction as to treatment of the expectoration, &c. After removals or deaths the rooms have been disinfected by formalin.

The old idea that Tuberculosis was hereditary, and that descendants of consumptives must in time suffer the same as their ancestors, has been given up. The theory of tuberculosis at the present time is founded on the discovery of the bacillus tuberculosis by Robert Koch. Where there is no bacillus there is no tuberculosis. The bacillus produces disturbances in the human body by means of the poisons to which it gives rise. A healthy person is able to offer resistance to these poisons, as the leucocytes of the blood capture and digest the germs, aided by those peculiar bodies in the blood to which Sir A. E. Wright has given the name of 'opsonins.' As one death in ten is caused by tuberculosis, it is incumbent on Sanitary Authorities to consider some remedy. Much money has been spent on hospitals for other infectious diseases, and why should not tuberculosis be included. The majority of cases occur amongst the working classes, who cannot afford the cost of Sanatorium treatment. I desire to bring to your notice the need of a small Sanatorium, to which working-class patients (not those getting parish relief) might be sent. Firstly, those whose homes are unsuitable for an open-air life. Secondly, members of large families whose homes cannot be turned upside down, as is necessary for systematic open-air treatment. Thirdly, all who need stimulus to change their ordinary routine of life or who have not intelligence enough to carry out a scheme of treatment without constant supervision.

Fresh air, sunlight and nourishing food, with graduated exercise are the most valuable assets in strengthening the resistance of a patient. Vitiating air, found in closed up bedrooms, is a direct poison to the consumptive. A small Sanatorium might be started, without much initial expense, in part of the now unused Baiter Hospital; patients could be attended by their own medical attendants, and pay a small fee towards maintenance. Fortunately, the human body has considerable powers of resistance to the bacillus of tuberculosis and its poisons, if it is not debilitated by adverse conditions, and though early cases have the greatest chance of cure, yet even in advanced cases there is always hope of arrest of the disease, or at least of a temporary reprieve and prolongation of life. Of course, our chief aim is to prevent the spread of infection amongst other members of a family, by removing the patients to a suitable place.

Respiratory Diseases other than Phthisis caused 71 deaths. Bronchitis 37, Pneumonia 23, Pleurisy 2, other diseases of the respiratory organs 4. In 1909 there were 92 deaths, in 1908 72, in 1907 53, and in 1906 73. Death-rate in 1910 2.09 per 1000.

Cancer caused 37 deaths, 21 between 25 and 65 years of age, and 16 in persons above 65. In 1909 32 deaths, in 1908 27, in 1907 25, and in 1906 36. Death-rate 1.09 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality is measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to 1000 births, and amounted to 82.5, as compared with 88.9 in 1909, and 98.8 in 1908.

In 1909 the figures for the various parishes were:—

			Births.	Deaths under 1 year.
St. James'	..	..	201	21
Loughfleet	..	..	125	6
Parkstone	..	..	211	12
Branksome	..	..	309	31
Hamworthy	..	..	38	3
			884	73

In Table V. are given the causes of the infantile mortality.

From this table it will be seen 8 deaths occurred from whooping cough, 2 from diarrhoea, 31 from premature birth and congenital defects, 2 from bronchitis, and 9 from pneumonia.

From the following table a comparison may be made between the infantile mortality in Poole and the rest of England and Wales for the last seven years:—

			Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births.						
			1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
England and Wales	..	..	145	128	132	118	121	109	106
77 great Towns (including London)	..	..	160	140	145	127	129	118	115
London	..	..	145	130	131	116	115	..	—
136 smaller Towns	..	..	154	132	138	122	124	111	104
England and Wales (less 213 towns)	..	..	125	113	115	106	110	98	96
Poole	..	..	109	113	118.6	76	98.8	88.9	82.5

The Notification of Births Act (1907), was adopted by your Council, and came into force on the 23rd May, 1910. The chief provisions of the Act are as follows:—In the case of every child born in an area in which this Act is adopted, it shall be the duty of the *father* of the child, if he is actually residing in the house where the birth takes place at the time of the occurrence, and of any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after the birth, to give notice in writing of the birth to the Medical Officer of Health, by posting a prepaid letter or postcard (which will be supplied free to doctors and midwives on application to the Sanitary Department, Municipal Offices) within 36 hours after the birth.

Any person who fails to give notice in accordance with this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings; provided that a person shall not be liable to a penalty under this provision if he satisfies the Court that he has reasonable grounds to believe that notice had been duly given by some other person.

From May 23rd to December 31st, 406 births were notified, this is far short of the number of births recorded by the Registrar of Births. 184 were notified by medical men, 215 by midwives, and only 16 by parents. The majority of the cases notified were visited by the **honorary health-visitor**.

I wish specially to draw the attention of parents to their responsibilities under this Act, as cases of non-compliance will be reported to your Council.

The Poole Mothers' Association has steadily increased in numbers, and now has three flourishing branches.

At the Central (27, Fish Street, Poole), there are nearly 80 members, of whom 52 belong to the Provident Club.

At the Branksome Branch there are 42 members, and at the Upper Parkstone Branch there are 51 members, 18 having been on the Provident Club.

The Early Notification of Births Act was adopted by your Council in May, 1910, and in July, Mrs. Herbert Hall, Superintendent of the Poole Mothers' Association, was appointed Health Visitor to the Borough (without salary) to carry out the necessary visiting under the Act.

Up to the end of the year Mrs. Hall has paid 120 visits to infants.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the amount of good that is being done amongst the mothers by Mrs. Hall, and the ladies who so generously give time and money to the work. A babies' clinic is held once a fortnight, the mothers bring their babies, and advice on health, etc., is given by various medical practitioners, who express in this way that the Poole Mothers' Association is doing a vast amount of good, in teaching the mothers the right way to clothe and feed their children in an up-to-date manner. I should like, if it were possible, for the scholars at the elementary schools, before leaving, to have three months' training in the care of children, under such an able instructress as Mrs. Hall. Every house ought to be provided with a pantry, where food can be kept, and with thorough ventilation. In the majority of cottages none is provided, it is a wonder there is not a higher infantile mortality: considering that the milk, etc., has to be kept in a cupboard in the living room, often placed by the fire or over the coal-hole.

Zymotic Death-rate.—This death-rate is based on the deaths from the 'seven chief Zymotic diseases,' viz.: small-pox, measles, whooping-cough, diphtheria, scarlet fever, fever (chiefly enteric), diarrhoea.

I give below a table with deaths from these diseases during the last six years.

		1905.	1906.	1907.	1908	1909.	1910.
Small-pox	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	..	1	14	2	11	5	—
Whooping-cough	..	5	8	1	12	5	22
Diphtheria	..	6	9	19	10	6	6
Scarlet fever	..	—	—	—	1	2	2
Enteric fever	..	8	1	4	2	6	—
Diarrhoea	..	1	10	2	4	3	2
		21	42	28	40	27	32

The Zymotic death-rate for 1910 was 0·94 per 1000. In 1909 it was 0·80, in 1908 1·21, in 1907 0·86, in 1906 1·31, and in 1905 1·00.

Annual death-rate per 1000 for each disease.

		1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Measles	..	·06	·33	·14	·00
Whooping-cough	..	·03	·36	·14	·64
Scarlet fever	..	·00	·03	·03	·05
Diphtheria	..	·58	·30	·30	·17
Enteric fever	..	·12	·06	·06	·00
Diarrhoea	..	·06	·12	·12	·65

No deaths from measles or typhoid fever took place in 1910. This is the first free year from deaths from these diseases for the last six years.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—The diseases that must be compulsorily notified by the medical attendant under the Infectious Diseases (notification) Act, 1889, to the Medical Officer of Health are small-pox, cholera, diphtheria and membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever or scarletina, typhus, typhoid or enteric, relapsing, continued and puerperal fevers.

The returns furnished to me under this Act shew that the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1909 was:—Diphtheria, 71; erysipelas, 11; scarlet fever, 101; enteric fever, 5; and puerperal fever, 1. Total 189.

I give a table for comparison for the last six years:—

		1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Small-pox	..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	..	29	27	23	42	141	101
Erysipelas	..	28	19	7	6	18	11
Diphtheria	..	20	33	49	44	30	71
Enteric Fever	..	39	27	13	6	13	5
Puerperal Fever	..	—	—	1	—	—	1
		121	106	93	98	202	189

The numbers notified in the different parishes are as follows:—

		1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
St. James'	..	50	36	11	9	102	38
Parkstone	..	30	17	19	36	30	57
Longfleet	..	17	14	16	11	31	58
Branksome	..	18	37	46	39	32	36
Hamworthy	..	6	2	1	3	7	—
		—	—	—	—	—	—
		121	106	93	98	202	189
		—	—	—	—	—	—

In Table III. will be seen the cases notified in the whole district in each parish, and the number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital. No cases of infectious diseases were notified in Hamworthy.

Scarlet Fever.—101 cases were notified, viz.:—27 in St. James', 51 in Longfleet, 13 in Parkstone and 10 in Branksome, 25 cases occurred between the ages of 1 and 5; 66 between 5 and 15 years; 5 between 15 and 25; and 5 between 25 and 65 years. The cases on the whole were of a very mild type, and several were not seen by any medical man, being considered by the parents as cases of mumps. There was an outbreak in the Longfleet Schools during November. Two fatal cases occurred in members of one family, six of which were removed to hospital. The disease in this instance developed a malignant type; 38 cases were removed to hospital.

Erysipelas.—11 cases were notified. These were chiefly of a mild character. No fatal cases occurred.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—71 cases were notified, as compared with 30 cases in 1909, and 44 cases in 1908; 24 cases occurred between the ages of 1 and 5 years; 41 between 5 and 15; 5 between 15 and 25, and 1 over 25 years. Three were notified in St. James'; 4 in Longfleet; 40 in Parkstone, and 24 in Branksome. Forty-two cases were removed to Alderney Hospital, of these six were fatal. In my opinion, the increase in cases notified during 1910 is due chiefly to the coldness and wetness of the climate. The rainfall in Dorset was 20 per cent. above the average. The private roads in the Branksome and Parkstone districts are in a very bad state, the children have to wade through mud. A chronic catarrh of the throat is thus caused, and the diphtheria bacillus, which is often present in apparently healthy throats, finds a suitable soil for its growth. It has been estimated that 7 per cent. of children in schools have diphtheria bacilli in their throats. The possibility of the transmission of the germ by sewer or drain air has not been demonstrated. Diphtheria is essentially a personal disease, spreading by direct contagion. Bad sanitation acts indirectly only—i.e., it acts only by adversely influencing the general health, and especially by producing a susceptible condition of the throat (enlargement of tonsils, etc.) The infection may be carried by milk, clothing and domestic pets, especially cats and fowls. The Local Government Board issued an Order in August 1910, on the Provision, etc., of Diphtheria Antitoxin, which sanctioned the provision by the Council of every Urban District, in pursuance of Section 133 of the Public Health Act, 1875, of a temporary supply of diphtheria antitoxin, and of medical assistance, in connection with the temporary supply of diphtheria antitoxin, for the poorer inhabitants of their district, subject to the following condition, that is to say:—

The arrangements with respect to the keeping, distribution and use of the diphtheria antitoxin shall be made in accordance with the advice of the Medical Officer of Health.

In November your Council resolved that the Medical Officer of Health should supply the antitoxin on application by medical men in necessitous cases. The prompt administration of antitoxin has been found, even when the patient is removed to hospital, to go far towards preventing the attack of diphtheria being fatal.

In cases in which a patient is under the care of a medical practitioner, the latter should, in ordinary circumstances, be the person to administer the antitoxin.

A supply of antitoxin and a sterilised syringe is kept at the Municipal Offices.

Four cases notified were on bacteriological examination proved not to be diphtheria.

Typhoid Fever.—Five cases were notified in 1910. This is the lowest number notified in the last six years, there being 13 in 1909; 6 in 1908; 13 in 1907; 27 in 1906; and 39 in 1905. No fatal case occurred, also for the first time in six years. The cases were scattered over the district.

(1)	Parkstone	M.	3 years	notified February 26th
(2)	St. James'	M.	15 "	" October 29th
(3)	Longfleet	F.	63 "	" November 7th
(4)	Parkstone	F.	40 "	" " 17th
(5)	St. James'	M.	36 "	" " 21st

In only one case out of the five could Poole oysters be blamed. Three oysters out of six dozen freshly caught ones were partaken of by a boy of 15. The rest were consumed by several people and no illness resulted. In the other cases no cause could be found.

Poole Oysters.—Meetings have been convened by Captain the Hon. F. Guest, M.P., at which fishermen and sanitary officials were present to consider any measure to remove the ban that is placed on oysters from Poole by the Fishmongers' Company and other towns.

After Dr. Klein's adverse report on the oysters dredged from different parts of Poole Harbour, viz.:—Bell Buoy, Salterns Pier, Stakes and the Wareham Channel, oysters were taken by Mr. Smith from the worst polluted source, and relaid at Lake Pier. One dozen were sent up for analysis, together with a dozen Whitstable natives, purchased at a shop in Bournemouth. I append the bacteriological analysis, which shows that relaid Poole oysters are quite equal to a sample of Whitstables. The question to settle is, where these oysters, which fatten in Poole Harbour and are very numerous, can be sent by the fishermen to be relaid, and thus to regain the prestige for which the Poole oyster was noted all over the country.

SAVOY HOUSE,
STRAND, W.C.,
December, 1st, 1909.

To G. H. CARRINGTON, Esq., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Poole.

We have examined the samples of oysters received from Inspector R. Smith, on the 9th day of November, 1909. The results of our examination are given below:—

No. 1. Bournemouth Oyster Saloon. Whitstable Oysters—

1. The *Bacillus coli* was present to the number of 10, but less than 100 per oyster.
2. The *B. enteritidis sporogenes* was less in number than 10 per oyster (not examined for less).
3. The number of microbes developing on gelatin averaged 65,000 per oyster.
4. The number of microbes developing on agar averaged 26,000 per oyster.

No. 2. Lake Pier, Hamworthy.—

1. The *Bacillus coli* was present to the number of 10, but less than 100 per oyster.
2. The *B. enteritidis sporogenes* was less in number than 10 per oyster (not examined for less).
3. The number of microbes developing on gelatin averaged 300,000 per oyster.
4. The number of microbes developing on agar averaged 17,000 per oyster.

(The method and details of the examination were precisely the same as those employed before).

The oysters show a decided improvement on the previous examination.

Both samples would pass Houston's stringent standard as regards *B. coli*

Personally we should prefer to see a still smaller number of *B. coli* and of total organisms present before passing these oysters as free from possible risk.

(Signed) C. G. MOOR.
R. TANNER HEWLETT.

Diarrhæa—Two deaths were registered from this disease amongst children under one year of age. The absence of many deaths from this disease is partly due to the cold and wet summer.

Infectious Hospitals.—The Borough possesses two Isolation Hospitals—the Alderney Hospital at Newtown, and the Baiter Hospital at Poole. Total available beds 36. The Baiter Hospital has been empty during the year.

Alderney Hospital.—81 cases have been admitted from the Borough. Thirteen from St. James', 24 from Longfleet, 26 from Parkstone and 18 from Branksome. Five cases were admitted from the Poole Rural District. Forty-two were cases of diphtheria, 38 were cases of scarlet fever and one case of typhoid fever. There were 10 fatal cases, 6 from diphtheria, 2 from scarlet fever, 1 from phthisis and 1 from heart disease. Much credit is due to Mrs. Nippard, the Matron, for the care and excellent nursing the patients received. In November extra nurses had to be obtained. There is much need for an observation ward, in which doubtful cases may be placed for a few days. Four cases of diphtheria removed to the hospital on medical certificates were proved by bacteriological examination not to be diphtheria. There is great danger of this sort of doubtful case being infected when placed in the same ward as others.

ALDERNEY HOSPITAL ACCOUNT.

					£	s.	d.
Groceries	..	..	..	..	48	17	6
Meat	..	..	..	..	16	2	9
Chemicals, Drugs and Disinfectants	..	..	..	..	17	2	5
Coal	..	..	..	..	26	4	0
Gas	..	..	..	..	15	9	0
Water	..	..	..	..	5	2	4
Conveyance of patients	..	..	..	..	17	5	0
Milk, etc.	..	..	..	..	28	1	4
Bread	..	..	..	..	12	11	7
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	20	9	10
					£207	5	9

Number of patients 92. Total stay 2,414 days.

Average stay per patient 26½ days.

Average total cost of food 10½d. per day.

Average cost per patient for food (26½ days.) £1 3s.

Total cost per day including fuel, disinfectants, clothing, gas, water, repairs, etc., 1/8½d. per day.

Whooping Cough.—22 cases of death from whooping cough have been registered. Eight under 1 year, 13 between 1 and 5 years and 1 between 5 and 15. Three occurred in St. James', 3 in Longfleet, 2 in Parkstone, 11 in Branksome and 3 in Hamworthy. Although regarded by the average parent as a trivial complaint, yet it is actually the most fatal of all the infectious complaints of children under 5 years of age. It causes twice as many deaths as scarlet fever. It appears to weaken the resisting power of the lung tissue, and to predispose to attacks of bronchitis, pneumonia and consumption.

BOROUGH OF POOLE.

Work executed during year ended December 31st, 1910.

I am indebted to Mr. Newman for the following details regarding new sewers and houses :—

SEWERS AND NEW BUILDINGS.

Sewers laid by Corporation—

Soil sewers	2586 yards, equal to 1·47 mile
Surface sewers	1859 „ „ 1·05 „

Sewers laid by Private Owners—

Soil sewers	2137 „ „ 1·21 „
Surface sewers	1495 „ „ ·85 „

Houses built and sewer connections—

Number of houses built	212
Number of other buildings	85
Number of premises connected to sewers	390

Street Improvements—

Station Road	widening
Cemetery Road	„
Breakheart Road	„

Water Supply.—The new works at Corfe Mullen were brought into use in May last, and since August the whole of the district has been supplied with Corfe water only—the old supplies from Waterloo, Lilliput, Alderney and Springfield being entirely abandoned.

The Corfe water coming from the Chalk is naturally harder than the old, which was exceptionally soft.

The supply to the district has been abundant and constant, and in the town of Poole the pressure in the mains has been more than doubled, owing to the abandonment of the Longfleet Reservoir. This will mean a much improved supply in cases of fire.

DAVIDSON KITCHINGMAN, M.Inst. C.E.,

Waterworks Engineer and Manager.

Midwives Act.—The Dorset County Council delegated its powers under this Act to your Council.

From and after the first day of April, 1910, no woman shall habitually and for gain attend women in childbirth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner, unless she be certified under this Act. No woman certified under this Act shall employ an uncertified person as her substitute.

Every woman certified under this Act shall before holding herself out as a practising midwife or commencing to practice in any area, give notice of her intention so to do to the Local Supervising Authority, and shall give a like notice, in the month of January, in every year thereafter.

Fifteen notifications of intention to practice within the Borough during 1910 were received from certified midwives—3 in St. James', 4 in Longfleet, 3 in Parkstone and 5 in Branksome.

Seventeen records of sending for medical help have been forwarded to me, and 6 notifications of stillbirths.

I desire to bring before the notice of midwives the following circular, drawn up by the Central Midwives Board. In even simple cases of inflamed eyes midwives must send for medical aid. :—

INFLAMMATION OF THE EYES IN NEWBORN CHILDREN.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

This is a very common cause of hopeless blindness, which is one of the greatest misfortunes that can happen to a child. A very large number of children will be saved from blindness if the following directions of the Central Midwives Board are observed.

The disease generally arises from purulent discharges from the mother getting into the baby's eyes at birth.

It is therefore of greatest importance that this should be prevented :—

1. By curing such discharges if possible before labour. This requires medical treatment (Rule E. 19 (2) and (3).
2. By taking the greatest care that such discharges shall not be carried into the baby's eyes when it opens them for the first time soon after its head is born.

The discharges may be carried into the baby's eyes in the following ways :—

- (a) The discharges collect round its eyes, especially the eyelashes, and easily get into its eyes.

This can be generally prevented if the midwife observes Rule E. 14: "As soon as the child's head is born, and if possible before the eyes are opened, its eyelids must be carefully cleansed." They should be thoroughly wiped with clean material such as cotton-wool, lint or rag, using separate pieces for each eye. The reason for this is that the piece used for wiping the first eye will be polluted by the discharges, and should not be used for the other eye.

- (b) Newborn babies sometimes rub their eyes with their hands. This may rub the discharges into their eyes. When Rule E. 14 has been complied with the baby's hands must be carefully cleansed.

- (c) When the baby is bathed the discharges with which its body is covered during labour are washed off into the bath-water. If its face is washed into this water matter may get into the eyes.

N.B.—The above directions are to be observed in *all* cases, whether purulent discharges are known to be present or not.

The Central Midwives Board is determined, so far as lies in its power, to secure the strict observance of its Rules and Directions, and to punish any failure to comply with them, even in cases where no harm can be proved to have followed from their neglect.

A complete account of the work done by the Sanitary Officials in the inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, and Common Lodging Houses, is contained in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. During the year the house-to-house inspection has been continued, many defects have been found, the owners written to, and the alterations required done. On non-compliance, the nuisances have been reported to the Sanitary Committee, and statutory notices sent to the owner. With the Inspectors I have made systematic inspection of the Borough, and have visited at various times bakehouses, butchers' shops, cowsheds and dairies, slaughterhouses, common lodging houses, laundries and workshops. Special visits have been made to schools and houses in which cases of infectious disease occurred.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—The scheme under this Act, that has been under the consideration of the Council for some years has come to a satisfactory conclusion. Your Sub-Committee were able to come to terms with all the owners, except four. An arbitrator appointed by the Local Government Board, held an enquiry, and the remaining properties were purchased. The scheme includes part of Skinner Street, Lagland Street, Taylor's Buildings, Stokes Alley and Drake's Alley. The demolition of the houses and clearing of the sites will take place shortly.

Disinfection.—Premises in which infectious diseases occurred have been disinfected by formalin vapour on the convalescence of the patient, or immediately after the removal to hospital. School rooms and houses have been sprayed with formalin. I again brought before the Sanitary Committee the question of a steam disinfector, but the matter has again been shelved. I consider this a most serious matter for a town of our size, being both an Urban and Port Sanitary Authority. No reliance can be placed on any known means of aerial disinfection for the sterilising of mattresses, bedding, clothing, curtains or carpets. Saturated steam penetrates every portion of an article, sterilisation is complete and the most resistant spores are destroyed. The Librarians of the Public Libraries are notified of cases of infectious disease; all books obtained from infected houses are disinfected when in good condition, if dirty and dilapidated they are burnt.

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.—This Act amends the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1903, and also introduces new provisions as to Town Planning. The Local Authority still have the duty of inspecting their district for houses unfit for human habitation, and they must keep such records thereof as the Local Government Board prescribe.

Closing orders for houses unfit for human habitation are no longer to be made by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, but by the Local Authorities themselves, and an owner aggrieved has a right of appeal to the Board within fourteen days after service of the order on him. Where a closing order has been operative for three months, and the house has not been and is not being rendered fit for human habitation, or where any building (being or being part of the house) is a nuisance or injurious to health, the Local Authority are to make a demolition order.

Increased powers of entry into houses and premises are given to persons authorised by a Local Authority, on giving 24 hours notice to the occupier and owner.

Your Council in September resolved that the Medical Officer of Health be instructed to cause the necessary records to be kept, as from the 1st of January, 1911.

Closing orders were obtained for two houses, one in St. James' and one at Newtown. These have now been put in satisfactory repair.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—During the year 541 visits have been paid to Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Thirty-three defects were found, viz.:—want of cleanliness, 23; overcrowding, 1; want of drainage of floors, 3; other nuisances, 1. Sanitary accommodation (unsuitable or defective), 5.

There were 32 visits paid to home-workers' houses, in one instance notice was sent to the firms employing the home-worker that there was infectious disease in the house, and his work was stopped.

Bakehouses.—There are 44 bakehouses, one an underground one. Seventy-one visits were paid. Verbal notices were given as to lime-washing, dirty floors and accumulation of stable-manure in close proximity to the bakehouse. The majority are kept in a very cleanly state.

Slaughter-houses.—The 15 slaughter-houses have been visited 109 times. Lime-washing has been carried out, but sufficient attention is not given to the frequent removal of offal. The bye-laws require that the offal should be removed at least once in twenty-four hours. Notifications were received from butchers, concerning the carcasses of animals that were found after slaughter to be diseased or unsound. The meat surrendered and destroyed in connection with these notifications—Beef, 224 lbs.; Pork, 2 carcasses of pigs (1 tuberculous, the other suffering from swine fever), and 1387 lbs. of tuberculous heads and parts of pig.

Unsound Food.—Two cwt. of fish was surrendered at the Fish Shambles, and 37 boxes of Bloaters at the Poole Railway Station. Both these lots were destroyed.

Cowsheds.—There are 32 cowsheds, these were visited on 61 occasions. Several contraventions were observed and notices served, viz. —(1), defective pavement and drainage; (2), insufficient air space; (3), insufficient ventilation, and (4), dirty condition of walls. A cowshed was erected and used without notice being given to the Sanitary Authority (proceedings were taken in January, 1910, and the occupant fined 15/- and 15/- costs).

Milkshops.—The number of milk-sellers on the register at the beginning of the year was 72. In many small shops only small quantities are sold. General shops in which fish, fruit and vegetables are kept are not suitable places for the proper preservation of the milk vessels and milk therein. Several unregistered milk-sellers were verbally cautioned, and one, after being cautioned, was proceeded against for keeping milk in a living room, and fined.

Food and Drugs Act.—From the Analysts' report it will be seen the following articles were submitted for analysis :—

Article.	Total number Analysed.	Adulterated.
Milk	79	9
Cream	4	0
Butter	11	0
Lard	12	0
Pepper	13	0
Sugar	5	0
Gregory Powder	3	0
Compound Licorice Powder	3	0

In January, 1910, for selling margarine for butter, a grocer was fined £1 and 5/- costs. This case was amongst those analysed in 1909. I wish to draw the attention of butchers, etc., to one of the dangers of boric acid as a food preservative, especially when used in sausage meat and pork pies. It is well known that when meat begins to smell bad, the odour is a danger-signal and that it is unwise to eat the meat. The smell, however, is produced by germs which are in themselves not dangerous. These smell-producing and non-dangerous germs are associated with other micro-organisms that produce poisonous ptomaines, but very often hardly any smell. Boric Acid prevents objective decomposition such as is detected by smell, it inhibits the yeasts and harmless organisms, but allows the organisms which produce septic ptomaine poisoning to grow. Hence food may smell perfectly sweet and yet be a source of infection.

Common Lodging Houses.—These are 4 in number, and have been visited at frequent intervals. Special night visits have been paid to ascertain if over-crowding occurred. At one visit slight over-crowding was found and the keeper warned.

At one lodging house the deputy was found not to be present on the premises between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The case was brought before the magistrates but dismissed.

Flies.—That flies are a great source of danger in the spread of various microbial diseases is becoming recognized, especially in regard to summer diarrhoea in infants, and to typhoid fever. That flies can convey typhoid bacilli direct from the excreta of typhoid patients has been conclusively proved by recent researches. The typhoid bacilli were found in the intestines and excrement of the fly. Our freedom from cases of diarrhoea and typhoid fever was due to the cold and wet summer, which proved fatal to flies.

I have again to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered me by Mr. Smith, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ramsden, the Assistant Inspector, and Mr. P. Wheeler.

Poole Port Sanitary Authority.—Mr. G. H. Carrington.

I have the honour to submit to you my Eighth Annual Report, as Port Medical Officer, for the year 1910.

I have again much pleasure in being able to give a most satisfactory report of the health of the seamen of the Mercantile Marine. No cases of infectious diseases or serious illness have been notified throughout the year.

The number of vessels "inwards," with cargo and in ballast, during 1910 was :—

INWARDS—1910.					
Coasting trade .. .. .	..	..	..	Sail, 345; tonnage, 22,759	
" .. .. .	..	..	..	Steam, 1,127; ..	175,871
Foreign trade .. .. .	..	..	..	Sail 72; ..	9,672
" .. .. .	..	..	..	Steam, 70; ..	14,033

Many of the coasting ships pay frequent visits, often weekly, during the year.

The chief ports from which foreign vessels sail are Harborg, Riga, Kronstadt, Viborg, Helsingfors, Archangel, Hamburg, Frederickstadt, Antwerp, Erdrigen, St. Petersburg, etc. The cargoes were timber, coal, maize, oil-cake, etc.

Owing to the epidemic of cholera during the summer months in St. Petersburg, Kronstadt, and other Baltic seaports, intimation was sent to me of the expected arrival of any ships from infected ports by the Superintendent of Customs, who was supplied by me with a list of infected ports. Strict enquiries were made on boarding by the custom officials, about any illness on board. If any illness had been notified by the captain, the custom officers would have detained the ship at the quarantine station, which is situated in the Wareham Channel, to the west of Stokes Buoy. No sickness being found on any of the ships, they were allowed to proceed to their berths, and were then boarded by me, and each member of the crew and their quarters inspected.

VESSELS FROM RUSSIAN AND BALTIC PORTS.

Name.	Port sailed from.	Cargo.	Date of Sailing.	No of Crew.	Water Supply.
S.S. "Hard" ..	Archangel ..	Timber	June 16th	15	Got fresh supply at Sunderland.
S.S. "Christian Sell" ..	Viborg ..	Timber	June 26th	15	Water from Viborg.
"Gunnar" (sailing ship)	Skelliftea ..	Timber	July 9th	8	Casks on deck, cleaned out and filled at Poole.
"Adelheid" (sailing ship)	Harbourg ..	Cake	Sept. 9th	6	Casks on deck, filled at Harbourg, emptied and cleaned, bilges dry.
"Martin Edward" (sailing ship)	Riga ..	Timber	Sept. 9th	8	Two iron tanks on deck, pumped out, cleaned. Also bilges.
"Christian Waldemar" (sailing ship)	Rolka, Finland ..	Timber	Sept. 12th	8	Iron tanks on deck. Water from Finland.
S.S. "Tromo" ..	St. Petersburg ..	Timber	Sept. 7th	16	Iron tanks taken in at Helsingfors. Came through Kaiser William Canal. Inspected Tanks and bilges, emptied and cleaned.
S.S. "Dana" ..	Kronstadt ..	Timber	Sept. 29th	14	From town supply at Kolka, Finland, emptied, cleaned and filled at Poole.

No cases of sickness were found on any of these ships. The Russian ports are now free from cholera.

Whilst in port, the water tanks were emptied, cleaned out and filled with Corporation water, of which there is always a constant supply from the mains on the Quay.

The number of ships inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 248.

The ships were classified as:—

	Good.	Fair.	Dirty.	Total.
British	182	17	—	199
Foreign	44	3	2	49
	226	20	2	248

The following defects were reported to the masters and in all cases complied with:—

Dirty forecastles	8
Tanks cleansed	12
Bad ventilation of forecastle	2

I beg to suggest to your authority that some means should be adopted for the extermination of the rats which abound on the Quay. It is now proved that the infection of plague is conveyed by the fleas which leave an infected rat and bite human beings.

Portland—Mr. T. Howard.

The Area of the District is 2,897 acres, less inland water 2,894 acres.

Population—I have to repeat what I wrote last year with regard to the difficulty of accurately estimating the population of a district like Portland, where the population is subject to rapid fluctuations. At the census of 1901 the population was 15,262, as against 9,541 in 1891. The Registrar-General in his estimate of the population presumes that the population is increasing at the same rate as it did between 1891 and 1901. He, of course, cannot take into account local conditions. I have continued to employ the same method as in previous years, namely, from the number of inhabited houses and from the birth-rate. I estimate our numbers for the middle of 1910 to be 12,400. The census to be taken in the ordinary course of events this year may, perhaps, give us a surprise, as previous official accounts have done; but I believe the above-mentioned figure is sufficiently conservative, judging from all the data I have at hand. A quinquennial census would go far to remedy the present uncertainties, and there is good reason to hope that after 1911 there will be a modified quinquennial census.

Vital Statistics.—In order to facilitate comparison, I here give the different rates for England and Wales.

Annual Rates per 1000 Living.

	Births.	Deaths.		Principal Epidemic Diseases.	Deaths. under one year to 1000 births.
		Crude.	Corrected.		
England and Wales ..	21.8	13.4	13.4	0.99	106
77 Great Towns ..	25.0	13.4	14.3	1.23	115
136 Small Towns ..	23.7	12.4	12.9	0.88	104
England and Wales (less the 213 Towns) ..	25.0	13.6	12.8	0.74	96

Births, &c.—The births registered in the district for the year are as follows:—

	1910.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
January	9	7	16
February	11	13	24
March	12	9	21
April	12	11	23
May	9	6	15
June	12	10	22
July	12	9	21
August	8	8	16
September	7	7	14
October	9	8	17
November	11	10	21
December	12	5	17
Totals	124	103	227

This represents a birth-rate of 18.3 per 1000 inhabitants. The rate is below the average for the past ten years, which is 19.9 per 1000. This is indeed the lowest rate for the past ten years. The birth-rate for the district is also much under that for England and Wales, which for 1910 is 24.8 per 1,000. The generally low birth-rate in Portland is accounted for by the large number of unmarried males included in the gross population. As I stated in my report last year, the immediate cause of the decreasing birth-rate during the past five years may be ascribed to the removal of young married people from the district owing to the scarcity of work. Of the births, two were illegitimate, forming 0.88 per cent. of the total births, the percentage proportion for the four previous years being 1.6, 0.33, 1.1, and 0.78.

Death-rate, &c. The Deaths registered in 1910 were as follows:—

January ..	..	7
February ..	..	9
March ..	..	11
April ..	..	14
May ..	..	7
June ..	..	13
July ..	..	6
August ..	..	7
September ..	..	7
October ..	..	3
November ..	..	10
December ..	..	11
Total ..	..	105

This represents an uncorrected death-rate of 8.4 per 1,000. This crude rate has, however, to be corrected. The deaths of residents who have died outside the district have to be added, and those who have died in public institutions, but belong to outside districts, have to be deducted. I am indebted to the kindness of Dr. Barclay, Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth, for information respecting eleven deaths of Portland inhabitants who died in public institutions in the Borough of Weymouth. In the Registrar's returns the death of no non-resident was recorded during the year in the institutions of the district. The corrected number of deaths is therefore 116. This gives a corrected death-rate of 9.3.

The corrected death-rate for the whole population offers the best basis for comparison with previous years. The figures for 1990 onwards are given in Table I. of the Local Government Board. This table shows that the corrected death-rate is below the average for the previous ten years, and considerably below that for England and Wales, which for 1910 is 13.4.

Some of the deaths included in the returns and on which the death-rate is calculated, do not properly belong to the district, yet it is not permissible to make deductions for these deaths. For examples:—

April 8th.—A Weymouth resident drowned in Portland Harbour.

April 29th.—The master of a merchant ship who committed suicide on the high seas.

November 11th.—A merchant sailor accidentally killed in Portland Harbour.

Six deaths were registered as occurring on board H.M. ships in Portland Harbour.

With the exception of the year 1908, the present year has the lowest death-rate for the past five years, and this continued low rate of mortality must be taken as a gratifying evidence of the increased healthiness of the district. The fall in the number of deaths only represents a part of the improvement which has taken place; since it inevitably follows that the amount of sickness must also have diminished in a corresponding ratio. It is also clear that the wage-earning capacity of each individual must have increased with the diminution of his sickness disability.

It is frequently suggested that the work of a Public Health Authority is unproductive, but in the light of the figures given it is obviously very far from the case. These figures show that there is a very great return realised for the money expended upon public health. It is true this is not expressible in terms of £ s. d., but it is expressible in terms of diminution of sickness, disability, and liability to death, which in themselves represent a direct and definite return for the expenditure incurred.

Deaths in public and other institutions—

Royal Naval Hospital	8	} Within the district.
H.M. Prison	..	..	2
The Workhouse, Weymouth	8	} Outside the district.
Royal Hospital, Weymouth	..	..	2
Isolation Hospital, Weymouth	..	..	1

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	1
Epidemic Influenza	..	..	..	..	3
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	..	..	..	..	6
Other Tubercular Diseases	..	..	..	..	5
Cancer and Malignant Disease	..	..	..	..	10
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	4
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	10
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	1
Venereal Disease	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	..	7
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	..	..	..	..	1
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	18
Accidents	..	..	..	..	7
Suicides	..	..	..	..	2
Kidney Diseases	..	..	..	..	5
Apoplexy	..	..	..	..	4
Old Age	..	..	..	..	11
All other causes	..	..	..	..	19
Total	..	..	..	..	116

The age distribution was as follows :—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	18 deaths
1 year and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	2 "
5 years	15	..	..	..	4 "
15 "	25	..	..	..	7 "
25 "	65	..	..	..	48 "
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	37 "
					116

The Natural Increase of Population.—This means the excess of births over deaths, and amounts to 111. The figures for the five previous years are as follows :—197, 146, 137, 147, and 126.

Average age at Death.—The average age at death for the whole district is 43 years. For the previous seven years the average age at death was 40, 33, 32, 37, 37½, 38, and 41 years respectively.

Zymotic Death-rate.—The Registrar-General gives the death-rate from the seven chief infectious diseases, small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever (typhus, enteric and continued) and diarrhoea, and this is usually described as the zymotic death-rate.

During the year there was only one death recorded under the above heading, namely, a case of enteric fever, which was brought into the district from the neighbouring borough in an advanced stage of the disease. Excluding this death, the zymotic death-rate is nil. As a test of sanitary conditions this rate possesses considerable value, which must not, however, be exaggerated. The Zymotic death-rate is a popular but very unsafe standard, inasmuch as diseases such as whooping cough and measles, which have a much greater effect in increasing the mortality than enteric fever and diphtheria, and yet they are much less amenable to sanitary measures than the latter diseases. However, the complete absence of deaths from such diseases as enteric fever, diarrhoea, diphtheria and scarlet fever is a matter for congratulation.

The rate for the previous six years is 0·44, 0·74, 2·3, 0·32, 0·72, and 1·25 per 1,000.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Portland (Urban)—continued.

Infant Mortality.—The total deaths of infants, that is of children under one year of age, was 18. Four of these deaths occurred in the Prison quarters and two in the military married quarters.

The rate of *Infantile Mortality* is measured by the proportion of deaths of infants under one year of age to every 1,000 births. This rate is uninfluenced by any possible errors in estimating the population, and is of more value for comparative purposes than the number of infantile deaths. Measured in this way, the rate for 1910 is 79·2. Table I. shows the average for the ten years (1900-1909) was 103·2. So that this rate is much below the average, and may be considered satisfactory, although it is above the extremely low rate of 54·9 for 1909. The infantile death-rates for the past four years have been very low, namely, 50·3, 89·8, 54·9 and 79·2. In my opinion it is impossible to separate this improvement from the steps which have been taken to deal with the problem of infantile mortality. During these years cards and pamphlets have been issued giving simple practical advice as to the care and feeding of infants. Instructions have been given to monthly nurses, and a certain proportion of the houses where children were born have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and sanitary defects remedied. It is more than possible that a part of this fall in the infantile death-rate is accidental or due to meteorological conditions, but I can see no evidence in support of the view that it is all accidental. Rather I think the evidence points strongly to the view that the fall in the infantile mortality, coming as it did immediately after the adoption of our scheme and continuing for a period of nearly four years, that it is in no small part due to the line of action adopted.

Last year 55 per cent of these infantile deaths were babies under one month old. This year the percentage is nearly as high, no less than nine deaths or 50 per cent dying within one month of birth. Stated as a rate, 39·6 deaths per 1,000 took place within one month of birth. These figures approximate, too, closely to the last available figures for England and Wales. In other words, although the infantile mortality rate for Portland is low, the number of deaths of babies under one month old is above the average. It follows, of course, that the death-rate of infants over one month and under one year was particularly low. In fact it was only 39·6 per 1,000 births. In connection with this matter I should like to again point out that with the present system of registration of births we only become acquainted with the existence of the child five or six weeks after birth. The control of infantile mortality is largely dependent on the recognition of the fact that action must be taken before permanent damage to the constitution of the infant has been accomplished. For this purpose it is necessary to become acquainted with the existence of the child at as early a date as possible, and therefore I would again recommend the adoption of the Notification of Births Act and its natural corollary, the appointment of a Health Visitor, whose duty it would be to instruct mothers in the feeding and management of their babies.

An analysis of the causes of death in accordance with Table V. brings out some points of interest :—

Gastritis	1
Premature Birth	6
Congenital Defects	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	3
Convulsions	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	2
Suffocation	1
Other Causes	1
Total	18

Premature Birth, Atrophy, and Debility.—Last year I pointed out how high a death-rate we had from these causes. This year these causes together constitute 50 per cent. of the total deaths under one year of age. The deaths from these causes suggest conditions of an unfavourable character which affect the child through the mother prior to its birth. The majority of mothers in this district belong to the working classes, and have as a consequence to perform the whole of their household duties without assistance up to the time of their confinement. These duties are often very laborious, entailing the lifting of heavy wash-tubs and the laborious mangling of clothes. Again, some of those I visited were under-fed, partly from poverty and partly from deficiency of knowledge of how to buy suitable food, and consequent purchase of ready-made “tasty dishes,” which contain but little nourishment. All these conditions go to lower the strength of the prospective mother and undermine the framework of the future child.

Convulsions.—It is not easy to say to what causes such deaths have been due. Convulsions are merely a symptom of many diseases.

During the year enquiries were made as to the feeding of 50 infants, during the first three months of life, in the poorest parts of the district. The result of these enquiries shows that 35 were entirely breast-fed, 5 were fed on cow's milk, and 10 on patent foods. That 70 per cent. were entirely breast-fed is more satisfactory than I had ventured to anticipate. I have also continued to make personal enquiries as to the feeding in every case of death of a child under one year old (excepting those in the Government quarters). Apart from premature birth, I found not a single case in which death resulted where the child was entirely breast-fed. In a few instances it was noticed that the most elementary ideas of cleanliness, both as regards the child itself and also the feeding utensils, were ignored, to the extent almost of criminal neglect.

Infantile Diarrhœa.—As pointed out in previous reports, the main factors with which this disease is always associated are dryness and a high temperature, and the disease is most prevalent in hot dry summers, the majority of the cases being always in the third quarter of the year. The meteorological statistics for 1909 and 1910 for the third quarter of the year are shown in the following table :—

Where observed.	Meteorological Date.	1909.	1910
H.M. Breakwater ..	Mean temperature for July ..	58.60 ..	57.71
" ..	" " August ..	61.07 ..	59.94
" ..	" " September ..	55.59 ..	55.66
" ..	Rainfall in water— July ..	1.97 ..	3.62
" ..	" " August ..	2.83 ..	2.25
" ..	" " September ..	2.82 ..	0.14

A consideration of these figures in the table shows that both as regards temperature and rainfall, the past two years have been very favourable to a low rate of mortality from infantile diarrhœa—the cold summers preventing the growth of organisms, and copious rain washing away the organic refuse. It is most satisfactory to be able to record that no death was ascribed to diarrhœa during the year.

The long-tube bottle is slowly disappearing. Breast feeding is becoming more popular. It has come to be recognised that the parents by the amount of care or lack of care which they bestow upon their offspring, can influence their living or dying. The young mother is beginning to find out that she can afford to do without the precarious advice of these old dames and neighbours, whose experience without knowledge exacts its toll in disease and infant lives. The dummy teat is struggling hard for its existence, and many mothers are prepared to put up with a little temporary discomfort rather than risk disease to their children and deformity to their mouths. Soothing syrups and patent baby foods still block the way. "Patent foods for patent babies" should be the motto. Patent foods are not needed, and are nearly always harmful. Some foods advertised for babies are merely baked flour. The contents of a 6d. or 1/- package could be bought in a shop for a halfpenny or a penny.

I must again call attention to the fact that no action has been taken by the Dorset County Education Committee in relation to the teaching of elementary hygiene, and the essential facts as to the feeding and care of infants to the older girls in our schools. The local Education Authority has its responsibilities in this matter, as well as the Sanitary Authority. To combat the prevailing ignorance of mothers as to the proper feeding of infants, strenuous action is required in a propaganda of education in the moral and hygienic aspects of motherhood. There can be little doubt but that much can be done in the schools, and more still by evening continuation classes for domestic teaching of the older girls. Yet somehow the dawn of a better day seems to be appearing. The knowledge of how to feed the baby is being diffused, and in my opinion the fatal results are more due to indifference or negligence than ignorance.

Prevalence of Disease (Notification).—The notifications were as follows :—

Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	3
Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	17
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ..	..	..	..	..	6
Total ..					27

The notification rate was therefore 2.1 per 1,000. The rates for the four previous years were 13.5, 4.16, 2.8 and 5.1 per 1,000 respectively.

The following notifications were received during the year by me from the Medical Officers of the Royal Naval Hospital, H.M. Prison and the Military Hospital :—

	Royal Naval Hospital.	Military Hospital.	H.M. Prison.	Total.
Enteric Fever ..	2	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever ..	1	0	0	1
Measles ..	11	0	0	11
Chicken Pox ..	3	0	0	3
Mumps ..	1	0	0	1

In Table III. the notifiable diseases are tabulated in detail for 1910, while in the two following tables the number of cases notified since 1901 and the deaths from the chief infectious diseases are recorded.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1901—1910.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Small Pox ..	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ..	59	7	8	32	6	2	16	8	53	17
Diphtheria ..	7	0	1	5	9	169	29	21	8	0
Croup ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever ..	8	1	0	1	5	3	0	3	3	1
Erysipelas ..	11	10	17	9	14	2	6	3	2	3
Puerperal Fever ..	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Phthisis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
	85	19	27	48	35	176	52	35	66	27

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT, 1901—1910.

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Scarlet Fever ..	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	13	0
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0	3	4	10	2	2	0	0
Typhoid Fever ..	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas ..	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever ..	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Measles ..	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ..	2	2	0	1	4	14	0	4	2	0
Phthisis ..	8	10	4	9	10	9	9	11	9	6

Small-pox.—No cases were notified during the year. The means of controlling this disease are vaccination, re-vaccination, isolation, and disinfection. The first two of these means would undoubtedly protect the whole community if properly carried out. The following table shows an enormous increase in the number of unvaccinated persons, following the Vaccination Act, 1907:—

Year	Number of Births.	Number of Primary Vaccinations.	Number of Exemptions.	Percentage Vaccinated.
1906 ..	313	..	16	82 per cent.
1907 ..	258	..	16	83 „
1908 ..	256	..	89	61 „
1909 ..	255	..	86	52 „
1910 ..	227	..	97	56 „

These figures speak for themselves, and do not speak well.

All these unvaccinated children are a danger to the rest of the community in a small-pox epidemic. That the opposition to vaccination is largely unreasonable is shown by the fact that during 1903 and 1904, when small-pox was epidemic, a large number of persons applied to be re-vaccinated.

At present we are without any permanent structure for the isolation of small-pox cases, but a hospital tent with two beds and nurses' accommodation is available when necessary.

Diphtheria.—No case of diphtheria was notified during the year.

For many years the Council have offered free bacteriological examinations to medical men practising in the district. A supply of antitoxin has also been available.

Scarlet Fever.—The following table shows the age and sex distribution of the disease:—

AGE PERIODS:—		Under 1 Year.	1 Year and under 5 Years.	5 Years and under 15 Years.	15 Years and under 25 Years.	25 Years and under 65 Years.	Over 65 Years.	All Ages.
Number of Cases Notified.	Male ..	...	1	7	1	...	...	9
	Female ..	...	1	5	1	1	...	8
	Total ..	...	2	12	2	1	...	17

The following table indicates the quarterly number of notifications received from the Tophill and Underhill districts, together with the number of households invaded:—

	Under Hill.	Top Hill.	No. of Households Invaded.
First Quarter ..	1	9	8
Second Quarter ..	1	...	1
Third Quarter ..	...	5	4
Fourth Quarter ..	...	1	1

In the first quarter, six of the notified cases in the Tophill district were scholars at the Easton Council School, and three were notified on the premises of a meat purveyor.

In the second quarter, a case was notified from a private school in the Underhill district.

In the third and fourth quarters, the six cases notified occurred in the Tophill district, and were scholars of St. George's School.

The features of interest in the scarlet fever outbreak during the year were:—

The first case notified occurred on the premises of a purveyor of milk. The case was at once removed to hospital. From the 21st February, the date of notification, the premises were kept under strict supervision. On the 4th of March, a child was discovered with nephritis and profuse peeling. The previous case had been in contact with this child on several occasions. The mother's explanation of not having called in a medical man before was that the child had only "a little sore throat."

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Portland (Urban).—continued.

On March 9th, a case was notified from a meat shop—the patient had been ill several days, but had continued to serve customers in the shop. On examining the other members of the family it was found that the mother and brother were also infected. All three cases were at once removed to hospital.

On April 6th, a case was notified from a private school—origin could not be traced. The school was at once closed, and the parents of the other children written to.

On July 1st, a scholar of St. George's school was notified. This was a mild case and had no complications. On September 12th, a sister of the above was notified. On investigating this latter case it was found that the patient had occupied the same bed for a week previous to her illness as the first case. On re-examination of the latter a slight ulceration of the septim nasi was discovered.

The disease was of a remarkably mild character—in fact, in one-third of the cases in the absence of definite scarlet fever in the Tophill district, the nature of the infection would not have been suspected. The remainder were fairly typical scarlet fever, though vomiting, severe headache, and high temperature at the outset have been rare.

The most characteristic onset has been enlarged sub-maxillary glands, as was noticed in the outbreak last year. Some suspects were kept confined to their rooms for over three weeks, and even then the nature of the case remained in doubt, but in cases where peeling occurred the patient was regarded as having had scarlet fever.

As to the spread of the disease amongst school children, I am strongly of opinion that there were one or two undiscovered cases of scarlet fever at the school, or playing with the other children in the neighbourhood. The case referred to as notified on March 4th is an example. Such a case is quite sufficient to start an epidemic, which a little parental care could have readily averted. It is this lack of consciousness on the part of parents which is so difficult to overcome. The child was "not bad at all," "had only a slight cold," and slight cases of this kind are the chief cause of the spread of the disease in school. Comings and goings between neighbours' houses is another source of mischief. In this district there are many worthy persons who, like the Athenians of old, seem to spend their time in nothing else but either to tell or hear some new thing. A fresh case proved a topic of much interest, and frequently drew a gathering of neighbours, and unfortunately neighbours' children, also to hear details or discuss symptoms.

Seven out of the seventeen cases notified, or 41 per cent., were removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital.

In addition to enforcing the usual precautionary measures, I visited the schools frequently and examined the scholars. Absentees were looked up, suspicious cases were watched, and enquiries made for "mited" cases.

Enteric Fever.—A case of enteric fever was notified on January 11th. The patient was in an advanced stage of the disease when first seen, and had only come to Portland from the neighbouring district a few days previously. The patient had been employed as a domestic servant at a house in Weymouth where several cases of enteric fever had occurred. The Medical Officer of Health of Weymouth was communicated with and the patient removed to the Borough Isolation Hospital, where the case terminated fatally.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Measles.—This disease was practically absent during the year. A few cases were brought to my notice in the Tophill district, but these were not scholars at the public elementary schools.

Mumps.—A slight outbreak occurred in the Tophill district in May, but the disease never assumed epidemic form.

Chicken-Pox (Varicella).—A number of cases came to my knowledge in the Underhill district in November and December. There was, however, no interference with school work.

Whooping Cough.—This disease was practically absent throughout the year.

Cancer.—Ten deaths were registered during the year as due to cancer. This is equal to a rate of 0·80 per 1000. The rate for 1909 was 0·54 per 1000.

Midwives Act.—The County Council delegated its powers under this Act to the Urban District Council, and the latter body is now the local supervising authority. There is one registered midwife in the district, but so far no notice has been given under Section 10 of the Midwives Act of intention to practice. There are still a number of women who are neither registered nor certified and who attend women in child-birth. I have interviewed several of these women during the year, and they assure me that they do not attend women in child-birth (only in cases of emergency) unless a medical practitioner is present. Two of these "nurses" have been cautioned during the year. Notices have been sent to all monthly nurses, etc., calling attention to the provisions of the Act.

Tubercular Diseases.—During the year six deaths from phthisis and five from other varieties of tuberculosis were registered in the district. No death of a Portland person from phthisis occurred in public institutions outside the district during the year. These deaths compared with those of the previous seven years are set out in the following table:—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Deaths from Phthisis.	Deaths from other Varieties of Tuberculosis.	Death-rate from Phthisis and other Varieties of Tuberculosis.
1903	8	4	4	·57
1904	12	9	3	·88
1905	12	10	2	·88
1906	11	9	2	·84
1907	14	9	5	1·12
1908	14	11	3	1·12
1909	9	9	·	·7
1910	11	6	5	·88

During the year the various forms of tuberculosis accounted for 11 deaths, or 9·4 per cent. of all the deaths registered during the year. The eleven deaths from the various forms of tuberculosis during 1910 were distributed as follows:—6 or 54 per cent., were due to phthisis; of the remainder, four were due to abdominal tuberculosis and one to cerebral tubercle. Five of the cases occurred in the Underhill district, four in the Tophill district, and two in the Prison quarters. Six notifications were received during the year. Two were notified under the Board's Order of the 18th December, 1908, and four were notified apart from this Order. Of the six cases notified, three died during the year, one is receiving treatment at a sanatorium, and two were under observation on January 1st, 1911.

There is no existing institution in the district or in the county to which cases of phthisis can appropriately be sent.

The measures adopted in connection with the prevention of consumption are as follows:—The home is frequently visited by both the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and any sanitary defects found are remedied. Cards and pamphlets of instruction are left at the house, and spitting bottles are provided for poor persons. The Council offers free bacteriological examination of the sputum to medical men practising in the district. Disinfection is now invariably done after death, and sometimes after removal. Perhaps I may here mention a difficulty in regard to the disinfection of some houses where phthisis patients have lived. It is a well-known fact that the poor frequently change their houses. The consequence is that on a re-visit the patient is found to have gone, and possibly there is a new tenant in the house. The latter will naturally object to have the house disinfected without any reason being assigned for disinfection, and if the reason be given it is quite possible that the tenant will become frightened and leave, thereby injuring the landlord.

It is gratifying to be able to record that the death-rate from phthisis this year is only 0·48 per 1,000. This rate is a very low one, but I am confident better modes of living, especially housing, will decrease it still further.

Tuberculosis as a Preventible Disease.—As I stated in previous reports, we have two lines of defence:

- (1) To improve the conditions of life, such as the provision of good drainage and improved housing, diminution of alcoholism, etc.
- (2) To directly prevent cases from acting as centres for the spread of the disease, while also infection from milk and meat from tuberculous animals must not be overlooked.

Under both headings much has been done in Portland.

The most striking point brought out at the Edinburgh Conference was the extraordinary percentage, put by some observers at more than 90 per cent., of human beings who become infected at some period of their lives, generally during childhood, by tuberculosis. Most of such persons recover without showing signs that they have been affected. This shows the importance of the power of resistance of the individual. The great sources of infection are the badly-housed, advanced consumptives and cows with obviously tubercular udders. If we can remove these grosser sources of infection from the community, and at the same time improve the conditions of life, a further reduction in our death-rate from tuberculosis may be looked for. As regards the former, I have made every effort to induce our poor advanced consumptives to go into the Workhouse Hospital, but I fear in this district not much advantage will be taken of isolation in that institution until the consumptive wards are made more attractive, or entirely separated from the Workhouse. As regards the latter, I regret to state that no samples of milk produced either within or outside the district were bacteriologically examined for the presence of living tubercle therein during the year. However, the Sanitary Inspector and myself have examined the udders of the cows during our inspections of the cowsheds. No case of tuberculosis of the udder was noted during the year. This must be regarded as a clumsy make-shift, inasmuch as the milk may have contained living tubercle for months before the appearance of disease.

Much is to be expected as a result of the present medical inspection of school children in relation to improvement in physique by attention to their teeth and consequent removal of much bad health which results therefrom. Another result which may be expected is the spread of the open-air school movement, and it is to be hoped that some of the open-air methods will be introduced into the curriculum of all the elementary schools. Nothing so far has been done in Portland in this matter, even in relation to classes in the open air for delicate children. This is a matter of such enormous importance that I cannot do better than quote the remarks of a head master of an elementary school who has given it special attention:

“The value of the open-air recovery schools is on the hygienic side beyond all question, and on the educational side not unsatisfactory. A danger arises, however, of outdoor educational work being mentally associated with and practically restricted to the physically defective. Against this I would urge that an immediate and large increase in the amount of school work done in the open-air would not only benefit children and teachers physically, but it is on educational grounds very desirable for all classes in schools of every type.

“At present we are largely slaves of the schoolroom and the desk. Things which cannot be done in a desk in a room are looked upon with suspicion as not being the real work of the school. Yet everyone recognises the evils arising from unsuitable premises and furniture, and the difficulty of providing efficiently ventilated class-rooms and sufficient floor space. Moreover, we all recognise that to repress the natural activity of the child, to restrain that love of movement so characteristic of the young, is educationally foolish.

“The fact is that the advantages of open-air work are mainly educational. Work can be done and methods employed out of doors which cannot be adopted in a schoolroom. I have endeavoured elsewhere to show how very much there is of practical arithmetic, geometry, mensuration, etc., which can be done infinitely better in any asphalted playground than in a classroom—with the additional advantage of freedom from the spine-twisting desk and the unnatural mobility which must be enforced, to say nothing of the benefit and pleasure arising from having the wind in one's face and sun in one's eyes. . . . Everyone must appreciate the sad absurdity of a jaded teacher in a crowded classroom with the blinds down attempting to teach tired little ones how to find north and south by the sun. . . . But it is with the subject known as nature study—a subject now everywhere recognised as of the greatest moral and intellectual importance—that outdoor work becomes imperative. The study of wind and rain and snow and dew is surely matter for outside work; whilst the only satisfactory way to deal with plant life is to allow the child to see and examine the living growing plant for himself. All the great educationalists, from Cermenius downwards, have urged that every school should possess its own garden, and that in it children should learn to know and love the trees and flowers and follow the life story of the plants. There is no form of work which permits the child so extensively to make his own observations, draw his own conclusions and ‘discover’ things for himself as does this work; here his drawing may be made a real mode of expression, and his ‘composition’ may be made an exercise which he wishes to do, in order to state his own ideas.”

No doubt the question of expense will frighten some, but it has to be remembered that it has been computed that one-eleventh of the total cost incurred in the relief of pauperism in England and Wales is caused by consumption. Dr. Newsholme, the Medical Officer to the Local Government Board writes: "Looking at the subject from the standpoint of national economics, it is not open to dispute that the most elaborate and complete measures of every description against tuberculosis would only cost a fraction of the present total loss inflicted by the disease."

The Schools.—The medical inspection of school children in this district is not carried out by the Medical Officer of Health, but the latter Officer and the School Medical Officer are in frequent consultation and co-operate cordially.

By arrangement the names and addresses of children suffering from such infectious diseases has come to the knowledge of the teachers have been sent to me. Those cases in which a medical man was not in attendance were visited, and steps taken to exclude children whose presence might be dangerous to other children.

On several occasions during the year when certain schools seemed to be instrumental in spreading disease I visited them for the purpose of making enquiries and examining scholars.

During the year the managers of the Wesleyan School consulted me with a view to having their school put into a thoroughly good sanitary condition. I communicated with the School Medical Officer, and as a result of our inspection I made certain recommendations to the managers in relation to the ventilation, heating, lighting, and sanitary arrangements of the school. It was further suggested that some old buildings adjoining the school should be pulled down and provision made for an open-air classroom. The managers were prepared to carry out my suggestions if the County Council would take over the school at a rental to be agreed on between the County Council and themselves. Unfortunately these negotiations fell through, and the managers, owing to want of money, are unable to proceed with the work, which would be so highly beneficial to the children. More particularly do I regret their inability to provide an open-air classroom for delicate children. This matter has been referred to under my tuberculosis report.

The condition of the different schools was dealt with in my last report, and as this remains the same as formerly, with the exception of a few minor improvements to the Wesleyan School, I consider a repetition not necessary.

The recommendations made in my report for 1909 have borne very little fruit.

Cleansing.—Not much improvement was noticed in regard to this important matter. In those schools visited during the daily "cleaning," no attempt whatever (with the exception of the Easton Council Schools) was made to prevent the dust from being scattered over the desks, shelves, walls and floors. It will be admitted by all that dirt in schools is abundant and germ-laden, and that to secure cleanliness it must be periodically removed and destroyed. The principal sources of dirt in schoolrooms arise from shoes fouled by the dirt of the roads and streets, clothing fouled by dust or organic secretion, and to these may be added particles from sores on head and body (arising from lice), particles from infectious skin diseases like pustular eczema, itch and ringworm. Cases of running ears, infectious eye diseases, and the presence of infectious diseases add special dangers to the dirt of the schoolroom. More attention ought to be paid to this important matter.

Ventilation.—The ventilation of the schools is still a matter requiring attention. No improvements as regards inlet ventilation are to be noted since my last report. Not only is the ventilation in some of the schools structurally inadequate, but it is unintelligently used, and this condition must have serious and far-reaching effect on the health of the children. Some of the teachers who are keenly alive to the temperature requirements of their classrooms are quite unmoved by their unventilated condition. It is quite the exception to find classrooms opened up to the air during the dinner hour. This is a matter in which the co-operation of the teachers is essential, and some of the teachers are not with us on the point from sheer lack of training in the subject.

Heating.—This is by no means satisfactory. No improvements were made during the year. The low pressure hot water system introduced at the Easton Council Schools gives a good equable temperature throughout the classrooms; but, as I stated in my last year's report, no system of hot water is admissible unless proper inlets and outlets are provided for ventilation. The heating of a school is, or should be, closely associated with its ventilation. Thermometrical records are now kept at all the schools. Fortuneswell Wesleyan School average temperature (winter months): 40° to 56° F.; infants, 37° to 54° F. St. George's School: 41° to 60° F.; infants, 46° to 57° F. St. John's School 41° to 60° F.; infants 42° to 60° F. Grove Schools: 40° to 53° F.; infants, 40° to 55° F. The temperature of a schoolroom should not be allowed to fall below 45° F. at any time, night or day, while the school is in session. The best temperature is 60° F. or just below, but any temperature between 56° and 60° F. may be considered satisfactory.

Infectious Diseases.—The following were the notifications received during the year from the various teachers:—

St. George's School—12 cases of suspected scarlet fever, 3 of mumps, 2 of ringworm, and 2 of measles.

Easton Council School—1 case of suspected scarlet fever.

I gratefully acknowledge the ready help and kindly assistance afforded me by the teachers during the year.

New School.—The Dorset County Education Committee have decided to build in the Underhill district a new school to accommodate 200 children. This school will probably have to be extended in the near future.

The Education Authority have now a unique opportunity for providing such accessories as a few shower baths and a proper kitchen and dining room adjacent to this school. I have referred in another part of my report to the want of facilities in many of the homes from which children come for a good hot bath. The shower bath system is the one to be specially recommended. The cost of erecting these baths at the new schools would be small, whilst the educational, hygienic, and moral advantages would be great. The kitchen and dining room would be invaluable as a cookery centre, and could also be used to provide meals for the children under civilised conditions and properly cooked. The value of personal cleanliness and the selection and proper preparation for suitable food can thus be properly demonstrated where needed. The value of such practical training would foster the children's sense of personal pride and would do more to assist them in the struggle of life than many of the useless subjects of the curriculum. I trust that this school shall not be built on the central hall plan, where adequate ventilation by natural means is so difficult; rather let us have it on the Staffordshire type with classrooms each not to exceed 40 scholars.

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Then again as to the furnishing of the school, I hope the old-fashioned obsolete long desks on which eight or nine children used to be packed shall not be permitted. These desks, as I have in previous reports pointed out, have assisted in the propagation of infectious disease, and the authorities who permitted such desks to be used could have no knowledge of the simplest hygienic principles. What is required is single desks—if economy is to be studied let us have the Sheffield system. These are long desks (without seats attached) of a half-a-dozen places and are used with separate pedestal chairs.

Will the County Education Authority rise to the level of their opportunity?

Rainfall.—The following is a record of the rainfall and wet days, as taken at H.M. Breakwater in the Underhill district, and at Sunnyside, Wakeham, in the Tophill district for 1910 :—

Month.	Rainfall in inches.		Number of wet days.	
	H.M. Breakwater.	Sunnyside.	H.M. Breakwater.	Sunnyside.
January	3·34	..	18
February	4·39	..	24
March	0·88	..	10
April	1·42	..	17
May	1·92	..	15
June	2·25	..	11
July	3·62	..	15
August	2·25	..	16
September	0·14	..	2
October	4·86	..	18
November	4·91	..	17
December	5·56	..	25
Totals	35·54	..	188
		32·79		187

For these figures, as well as the thermometrical records given under infantile mortality, I am indebted to the courtesy of J. E. Mallim, Esq., Acting Superintending Civil Engineer, H.M. Breakwater, and R. S. Heushaw, Esq., Surveyor to the Council.

Water Supply.—The water supplied to the district is derived from two sources called the Upper and Lower Wells. The Upper is a deep well situated in the lower chalk. The situation of this well and the quality of the water leave nothing to be desired. The Lower well is a surface well, and attention has been called for many years to the situation of the well and its liability to pollution. On August 15th, samples of the water from this well were taken by the Surveyor and sent to the Chemical Research Association for chemical and bacteriological examination. The result of the chemical examination was satisfactory. The following shows the results of the bacteriological examination :—

“The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates incubated at 20-22° C for three days 1800 per C.C.

The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on agar plates incubated at 37·5° C. for two days 51 per C.C.

B. Coli ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Present in 5 C.C.
Streptococci ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Not found in 30 C.C.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Not found in 100 C.C.

These results indicate a slight degree of pollution with sewage or animal excreta. In its present condition the water cannot in our opinion be considered as safe for use as a public supply without filtration.”

On September 28th, together with the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, I inspected the well and its surroundings. The following report was presented to the Sanitary Committee:—“I can only say that the condition in which things were found showed that the pollution can scarcely be avoided—the soil through which the water percolates to reach the well must be itself polluted. There can now be little doubt that the continued use of water from this well without treatment is fraught with considerable danger to the public health. I therefore advise that steps should be at once taken to have the water filtered or chemically treated, and that samples of the water should be submitted once a week for analysis until every possibility of danger is removed. It is, I hope, scarcely necessary for me to again point out that little reliance should be placed upon a mere chemical examination of water, for water may be pure chemically, but teeming with *bacillus coli* when examined bacteriologically.”

It stands to the credit of the Sanitary Committee that without hesitation they decided to provide the chlorinating plant necessary for treating the water from this well. Unfortunately, at the meeting of the Council, this decision was rescinded.

It is very important that all matters pertaining to the purity and wholesomeness of a water supply should be under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. The sending of samples of water to analysts who are totally unacquainted with the source with a view to obtaining their opinion as an authoritative guide is likely to give rise to erroneous ideas. The analyst is on sure ground when he condemns a water as impure owing to the presence of sewage matters; but when he reports that a water is pure he is on most uncertain ground, because all that he really means to say is that he has not found evidence of the existence of sewage in a particular sample. If he has made no error, and it is not in the sample examined, that is no proof that it may not be in one taken on the following day or a week later, or after rain, or after a long drought, as the case may be.

Waterworks Extension.—The Council have made every endeavour to provide a good supply of water in addition to their Upper Well, but many difficulties had to be contended with. The Council, acting on the advice of their Surveyor, have decided to obtain water in the Portesham valley by means of borings. The test pumping at this situation in December yielded 380,000 gallons per 24 hours. The Consulting Engineer, Mr. Baldwin Latham, advises strongly against a borehole scheme in this situation, and says: “In order to secure an adequate supply of water, if it is to be found in this situation, it would be absolutely essential to sink a well and drive an adit, etc.,” and again, “In the case of borehole pumps being used, it would require four boreholes and four borehole pumps to do the same work as with one well.”

To whatever scheme the Council eventually commit themselves, I consider it most important that a minimum of 600,000 gallons per 24 hours should be available from both the higher well and the new source of supply. This will only allow 350,000 gallons per 24 hours for the present and future means of Portland, when deductions are made for the Admiralty and Captain Gould.

The average consumption for the past five years has been 303,000 gallons per 24 hours. About 23 gallons per head per day has been the consumption during the same period.

Sewerage.—During the year important improvements have been made in our sewerage system. The Adams' lift at Castletown has been done away with and replaced by a pair of Coombes' ejectors. The ejectors are actuated by compressed air from an air compressing station at the gas works. The maximum capacities of both ejectors are stated to be 7,800 gallons per hour, whilst the discarded lift had only a capacity of 360 gallons per hour. The ejectors have worked in a most satisfactory manner since their installation. Before this system was in working order, the sewage used to remain for days in the sewers and drains, stagnant and decomposing, and was even at times backed up into the houses at Castletown. The benefit conferred on the inhabitants of Castletown is considerable, not to speak of the evils arising from having to pump the sewage into the harbour.

Another difficulty was dealt with at the same time by laying a new sewer up to a factory in the vicinity. This factory had previously drained into a cesspool which had been dug in the clay sub-soil, and during wet weather overflowed into the street gutter, giving rise to considerable nuisance. Much money was spent by the Council in having to empty this cesspool at frequent intervals, but the results were not satisfactory. A new system of drainage for these works has effected a much-needed improvement.

It also gives me much pleasure to be able to record that the sewer from Easton Railway Bridge has been extended to Clarence Road. Formerly the drainage and surface water from ten houses in this road emptied into a cesspool. It was found practically impossible to prevent this cesspool from overflowing out to the land during wet weather and giving rise to a nuisance. The cesspool is now abolished, and the sewer properly connected with the main system.

The High Street storm overflow has operated several times during the year in times of heavy rains and has effected the desired relief to the sewer in the Chiswell district.

On December 16th, a few of the houses in the Chiswell district were flooded by the sea. A strong south-west gale had been blowing all day, and at 6.50 p.m., just on a high spring tide, the sea broke over the beach, flooding the streets and houses to a depth of about 2 feet.

Slight flooding has also occurred at Easton Square from heavy rains on one or two occasions, but nothing of a very serious nature has taken place.

Flushing of Sewers.—The various sewers are flushed regularly once a month by means of a hose pipe attached to the hydrants near the heads of the sewers. Two automatic flush tanks have been placed at Southwell and one at Easton Square, which discharge once in every twelve hours. These have been found more efficient than the former method of flushing, and are invaluable where the gradient is slight.

The syphon under the railway bridge at Park Road is cleansed every ten days by means of a chain. The difficulties referred to in previous reports were not observed this year.

Ventilation of Sewers.—There are now sixteen up-cast shafts (five at Easton, four at Weston, four at Southwell, one at Grove, one at Old Hill, and one at Castletown). A new up-cast shaft was erected during the year in connection with the re-construction of the Castletown drainage. I have in previous reports called attention to the fact that the surface ventilating grids have been closed up in the Underhill district owing to complaints of offensive smells. As a consequence the only sewer ventilation in the Underhill district (with the exception of Castletown) is by means of the ventilating shafts to the house drains. The possibility of the existence of some old sewers which are not self-cleansing and otherwise of faulty construction, more especially if there is not a sufficient fall to remove the sewage at the rate of at least three feet per second, makes it necessary to have some means of ventilating the sewers in this district. If not, the gases generated will be likely to force the weak traps of the house drains and enter the houses. It may be roughly estimated that over 90 per cent. of the houses are without intercepting traps.

Public Conveniences.—The pressing need for sanitary conveniences in the district is great. At a meeting of the Committee in July the Surveyor was directed to prepare plans for three conveniences, two in the Tophill district, one for men, and one for women, and one in the Underhill district for men. These plans and estimates are now practically completed, and I trust the Council will press forward in this matter without further delay. The condition of the back streets and side passages is at times very bad owing to the lack of suitable conveniences, and many complaints have been made to me during the year respecting the same.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.—The collection and disposal of house refuse is under the Surveyor's department, and the scavenging is so arranged that every house in the district is visited once a week. I have received many complaints as to its inefficiency, and that the period is too long between the collection. In consequence of complaint the question of a bi-weekly collection of refuse throughout the district was raised by a member of the Council at the Council meeting in June. I regret to state that as the result of the discussion it was decided that ash-bins should not be removed at more frequent intervals than once a week, unless the Sanitary Inspector was satisfied of the existence of a nuisance arising from the ash-bin, when it might be removed at any time. This decision is a direct contravention of all sanitary principles and of the bye-laws by which such things are governed, and I trust that at an early date the Council will re-consider their decision in this matter. To prevent nuisances there can be little doubt but that a bi-weekly collection of refuse, more especially in the summer months, has become an absolute necessity. I feel sure that every member of the Council shares the same view—the only barrier is the question of expense. In any case I think that during the coming year the refuse should be collected twice a week in Fortuneswell and Easton Square, where there are many large business premises and a very little yard space. In the summer months there are many houses in both the localities mentioned where the kitchen fires are not used—gas being used for cooking purposes—and consequently the garbage cannot be destroyed.

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It is the custom in this district for the dustmen to be supplied with a disinfectant powder, a handful of which is thrown into the ash-bin after the contents have been emptied into the cart. This process is supposed to disinfect the bin. It is also the custom when gulleys are cleaned for a handful of the same substance to be cast over or into the gulley, most of it, I am afraid, into the channel or surrounding area. This process is also supposed to disinfect the gulley. I consider these processes to be nothing short of a waste of public money. The condition of the ash-bin depends on the method of use, and if an ash-bin smells it is due to the fact that unsuitable material is put into it. An ash-bin properly used does not require disinfection, or even a deodorant. The usefulness of disinfectants is strictly limited, and when they take the place of cleanliness their use is fraught with grave danger. It will be noticed in the table of house-to-house inspections that out of 449 houses inspected, only 192 had a covered receptacle, whilst 205, or nearly 52 per cent., had receptacles which were neither covered or suitable. The figures for the whole of the district are as follows:—Of the houses examined, 698 had covered receptacles, and 1,028, or about 59 per cent., had receptacles which were without covers.

On collecting days it is positively disgusting to walk through the streets and see this unsightly and unsavoury collection of receptacles. I trust the Council will press forward in this matter and cause the owners of house property to provide proper galvanized iron covered receptacles. I again recommend the distribution of leaflets in the poorer parts of the district containing instructions to householders how to deal with house refuse.

The refuse when collected is conveyed by covered carts to Wide Street, where it is tipped into a quarry situated about 250 yards from the highway and in close proximity to a factory. Complaint has been made as to the noxious smells arising therefrom at certain times. I have again to call your attention to the urgent necessity that exists for a refuse destructor.

Means of Disinfection.—After removal or convalescence of the patient, the house has been disinfected under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The agent used has been formalin discharged from a pneumatic sprayer. The floors, furniture, and woodwork have been thoroughly scrubbed, and all articles known to have been exposed to infection have been washed in a solution of cyllin. We have as yet no disinfecting apparatus for the treatment of infected bedding and clothing, and I would again urge on the Council the great necessity there is for providing a suitable steam disinfecter.

Isolation Hospital.—I have for many years called your attention to the fact that we have no isolation hospital of our own, although the necessity for such must become more obvious year after year. By an arrangement with the Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority, we can, however, send our infectious cases to that authority's hospital, unless it should be occupied by cases of plague, cholera, yellow fever or small-pox. The Port Sanitary Hospital consists of two pavilions, each containing two wards, together with an observation ward, and provides accommodation for 25 patients. This year, seven out of our 17 cases, or 41 per cent., were isolated there—a somewhat lower percentage than that of last year, when 47 per cent. of our scarlet fever patients were treated in hospital. I do not suggest that every case of scarlet fever should be isolated in hospital. Indeed I will go further and say that in my opinion it is a mistake to send mild uncomplicated cases of scarlet fever to hospital where reasonable isolation can be provided at home. It has to be remembered that our population is largely composed of working people, who have in many cases only two bedrooms available, and consequently effective isolation is all but impossible. In order to give the patient a room to himself, the family have to huddle together in an inconvenient manner. To keep up such arrangements for weeks at a time is irksome to householders, and the precautions taken are apt to grow lax. There are also occasions in which it is in the public interest that a hospital should be in readiness, and to these I invite your consideration.

- (1) A case occurring in an overcrowded house or a house in which the patient cannot in any way be isolated and where there are other persons in the house at the age when they are most likely to contract the disease.
- (2) When a case occurs in a house the occupant or occupants of which will not be allowed to follow their occupation as long as the house is in an infected condition. This would affect a considerable number in Portland, as the men employed at H.M. Dockyard and other Government works are prohibited from returning to work until the house where they reside is free from infection.
- (3) When a case occurs in a house in which there is no person who can attend to the patient.
- (4) When a case occurs at a dairy or milkshop or other place where food is prepared or sold.

We should have no place to send our infectious cases occurring under any of the above conditions, if the Port Sanitary Hospital should happen to have received a case of small-pox, cholera, yellow fever or plague, from shipboard.

Public Mortuary.—In previous reports this matter has been dealt with at some length. I should like to again call your attention to the great necessity there exists for a public mortuary.

House-to-house Inspections.—In February, 1908, I reported to the Sanitary Committee that owing to the many defects I met with in connection with various houses I happened to visit, I considered it advisable that the Committee should arrange for a systematic house-to-house inspection of houses throughout the district by the Sanitary Inspector. This special inspection has been continued throughout the year, and the inspection of all the houses throughout the district was completed on October 26th last. The records of the state of the houses will be most valuable, more especially in view of the inspection now begun in connection with the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909. A large number of houses and premises were also inspected in connection with infectious diseases, complaints, examination of workers premises, etc.

The result of this year's inspections are shown summarized in the following table:—

Name of Street.	No. of houses inspected.	No. of premises in a dirty condition.	No. of Premises damp, dilapidated, etc.	No. of defective drains.	No. of choked drains.	No. of houses drained into cesspools.	No. of undrained houses.	No. of defective w.c.'s.	No. of closets without flushing cisterns.	Total number of closets.	No. of untrapped sinks.	No. of properly trapped sinks.	No. of fixed baths.	No. of fixed lavatory basins.	No. of houses without a proper supply of water.	No. of cases of over- crowding.	No. of covered refuse receptacles.	No. of uncovered refuse receptacles.	No. of cases of defective yard paving.	No. of back-to-back houses.	Miscellaneous nuisances and defects.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Ginder Lane ..	7	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	2	1	1
Sea View Terrace ..	19	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	14	4	2	..	..	..	10	7	8	..	7
Albert Villas ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	8	6	1	..	..	..	..	4	4	1	..	2
Albert Terrace ..	26	2	4	1	..	..	..	6	13	26	6	5	..	..	3	..	7	18	6	1	10
Osborne Terrace ..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	8	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Queen's Road ..	32	..	..	2	1	..	..	3	9	39	8	6	8	13	1	..	11	18	8	5	11
Clement's Lane ..	25	..	2	2	1	..	..	2	6	25	9	..	..	1	..	1	11	12	4	..	8
Higher Lane ..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	14	1	..	..	..	..	10	4	..	..	..
Belle Vue Terrace ..	26	..	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	26	24	2	1	..	..	..	12	11	2	..	4
Merton Terrace ..	4	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	..
Belle Vue Cottages ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Brymer Avenue ..	14	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	8	6	..	..	..	..	1	8	2	..	3
Hambro Road ..	26	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	14	26	23	3	..	..	1	..	6	15	4	..	12
St. Paul's Road ..	11	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	11	6	4	..	..	..	..	8	1	2	..	..
St. Martin's Road ..	21	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	5	25	14	5	..	..	..	..	11	5	2	..	1
New Road ..	2	..	1	1	..	2	..	1	2	4	1	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	1
Fortune's Well ..	132	4	15	18	2	..	..	1	13	168	75	18	13	21	..	..	61	159	15	..	31
East Street ..	11	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	11	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	9	2	..	6
Greenhill Terrace ..	7	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	1	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	1	..	1
Belgrave Place ..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	6	2	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Albion Crescent ..	6	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	12	2	4	1	1	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
Ventnor Road ..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	10	43	26	1	12	9	..	..	18	6	..	..	..
Castletown ..	19	..	9	1	1	..	..	1	..	46	9	9	7	15	..	..	3	13	..	..	2
Total	449	8	46	32	7	2	..	21	86	550	264	73	44	61	5	1	192	305	61	7	100

House-to-House Inspection.—Notices to abate the defects have been served in every case, and a glance at the defects found will make quite clear the value of such inspections. Many sanitary defects which would otherwise be left unnoticed possibly for years were remedied and the general housing of the district greatly improved. The column showing the number of water closets not supplied with water shows that out of 550 water closets, 86, or over 15 per cent, were not supplied with water. This proportion is in excess of that found as the result of the inspections in the two previous years. Yet the inspections this year were not altogether concerned with old property. In one street of 26 houses which have not been built above twelve years, only 46 per cent. of the water closets were provided with flushing cisterns, and in the same street 23 out of 26 waste pipes from the sinks were untrapped. It is a matter for regret that such houses as I have mentioned above were allowed to be erected with water closets only hand flushed, and without flushing cisterns supplied with water. I have on several occasions pointed out to the Sanitary Committee that I regard water closets, whether inside or outside the house, not supplied with a separate supply of water as insanitary and unsatisfactory water closets. Notices were served in every case to provide proper flushing cisterns (Section 36, Public Health Act, 1875).

No records of the premises without spouting or defective spouting have been kept. The number of houses without proper spouting has been estimated at 40 per cent. of those examined. A fair amount of work was done in this connection during the year, action having been taken in regard to 55 houses.

We trust to deal with this matter, contributing as it does to the dampness of the dwelling, more comprehensively during the coming year.

Food Larders.—I have again to refer to the large number of houses without proper larder accommodation, of which it is estimated only 8 per cent. of those inspected were provided with. This is most unsatisfactory. The conditions under which milk and other perishable articles of food are kept in many of these smaller houses is such that they are certain to rapidly deteriorate. As I stated in my last year's report, it is most regrettable that new houses still continue to be erected without any provision being made for a separate larder with a window opening into the outer air.

Yard Paving.—We have again endeavoured to improve the surroundings of houses where necessary by securing the laying of impervious paving material in unpaved back yards and of unpaved spaces extending along the front or back of the house walls. This is a form of sanitary improvement which I consider most important, conducing as it must to greater cleanliness both in and outside the house. It also prevents nuisance arising from the collection of stagnant water, which soaks into the ground, fouling the soil, and under the action of summer heat facilitating the growth of organisms. These organisms easily find their way into the house and cause contamination of food and consequent sickness of the occupants. Without paving, the surface of the ground is worn into holes, which are puddle holes in wet weather, and dampness of the house walls results from the water not running off to a suitable drain. During the year a fair amount of work was done in this connection, some 57 yards and areas being paved with concrete.

House Drainage.—A good deal of the work under this heading is the result of the house-to-house inspection. Complaints also received as to choked drains, etc., constitute a number of the cases which on investigation lead to the repair or renewal of existing drains. During the year ten new drains have been provided and 44 drains have been re-laid or repaired. No drain is allowed to be covered in until it stands the water test. Much of the Sanitary Inspector's time is devoted to this work, as each test takes at least one-and-a-half hours. Visits are also made to premises with builders and owners to arrange details for carrying out the work ordered. On completion of the work a plan is drawn showing the line of the drain, and a record is also made of the work done, by whom, and when done. It is quite unlikely that the amount of work devoted under this heading will diminish, as the public fully realize the value of a sound and efficient system of drainage.

Overcrowding.—The summary of house-to-house inspection does not give the figures showing the number of persons per house, but this is always enquired into. Two cases of overcrowding were brought to my knowledge during the year. The overcrowding in both cases was caused by members of the same family, and was remedied in each case after notice was served by the occupiers acquiring larger premises. I have not found that overcrowding to any appreciable extent exists in the district.

Housing of Working People.—Now that the inspections of houses throughout the district have been completed, it might be well to consider the sanitary survey of the past three years as a whole, more especially in relation to the number of houses available for the accommodation of working people, as well as the character of the accommodation provided therein. It is also desirable in connection with the inspection of houses now in progress under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, that the work of the past three years and the action taken should be commented on. The following tables show the number of houses in different localities in the district at a rental of 5s. per week and under; the number of unoccupied houses in the same localities at the same rentals; the character of the accommodation in the occupied and unoccupied houses throughout the district, and the number of houses at rentals of 7s. 6d. per week and under in which bath accommodation is provided. I may say that the information in the tables was obtained from the Sanitary Inspector's house-to-house inspection book, who compiled the tables at my suggestion.

TABLE I.

NUMBER OF OCCUPIED HOUSES OF A WEEKLY RENTAL OF FROM 1/6 TO 5/-.

Weekly Rental.	Tophill District. Population 4,148.					Underhill District. Population 3,960.
	Weston.	Easton.	Southwell.	Wakeham.	The Grove.	Fortunesswell.
1/6	1	0	1	0	0	0
2/-	0	4	1	0	0	10
2/6	5	11	0	3	0	14
3/-	20	0	2	18	0	24
3/6	4	19	0	16	2	29
4/-	22	48	61	0	11	81
4/3	2	0	0	0	6	24
4/6	17	105	5	17	14	45
4/9	0	6	0	6	12	11
5/-	15	146	16	19	37	99
Totals ..	86	339	86	79	82	337

TABLE II.

NUMBER OF UNOCCUPIED HOUSES AT A WEEKLY RENTAL OF 5/- AND UNDER.

1/6	0	0	0	0	0	0
2/-	0	0	0	0	0	0
2/6	3	0	0	1	0	0
3/-	1	1	1	5	0	9
3/6	0	1	2	0	0	0
4/-	3	0	14	5	9	2
4/3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4/6	1	4	2	0	4	3
4/9	0	0	0	0	0	6
5/-	1	8	0	0	6	18
Totals ..	9	14	19	11	19	29

TABLE III.

CHARACTER OF THE ACCOMMODATION IN THE OCCUPIED HOUSES.

Houses containing.	Tophill District.					Underhill District.
	Weston.	Easton.	Southwell.	Wakeliam.	The Grove.	Fortuneswell.
1 room	0	0	0	0	0	0
2 rooms	0	2	0	2	0	9
3 „	4	8	0	6	3	39
4 „	14	70	20	37	23	116
5 „	51	110	33	47	30	187
6 „	19	182	49	31	33	291
7 „	10	83	7	13	6	96
8 „	6	37	7	7	6	72
Totals	104	492	116	143	101	810

TABLE IV.

CHARACTER OF THE ACCOMMODATION IN THE UNOCCUPIED HOUSES.

2 rooms	0	0	0	0	0	0
3 „	1	1	0	0	1	2
4 „	1	1	4	7	4	2
5 „	5	2	4	1	9	4
6 „	1	10	12	1	5	30
7 „	0	0	1	2	0	12
8 „	2	2	0	0	0	6
Totals	10	16	21	11	19	56
including	9	14	19	11	19	29
	under 5/- per week.	under 5/- per week.	under 5/- per week.	under 5/- per week.	under 5/- per week.	under 5/- per week.

Total number of unoccupied houses under 5/- per week rental, 101.

TABLE V.

TABLE SHOWING THE OCCUPIED AND UNOCCUPIED HOUSES OF A WEEKLY RENTAL OF 7/- AND UNDER IN WHICH BATH ACCOMMODATION IS PROVIDED.

Weston.	Easton.	Southwell.	Wakeham.	The Grove.	Fortuneswell.
1	7	2	0	1	8

As I have already stated, the examination of houses that has been carried on for the past three years was made with a view to discovering whether statutory nuisances existed or whether houses were reasonably fit for habitation. We have dealt with unpaved back yards, the provision of proper water closets, and many minor nuisances. In my report last year I called attention to the fact that there are a large number of dwellings in Portland which have no properly constructed “damp courses” in the walls, and in addition have not had a thick layer of concrete laid under the bottom floors. In such cases moistening of the sub-soil must lead to dampness of the dwelling, to say nothing of the deleterious ground air which will be forced upward by the rising of the ground water from time to time, and will always be more or less sucked into the dwelling owing to its atmosphere being warmer. These houses have not been dealt with. There are also a number of houses which are out of repair and lack the proper conveniences so essential to decent living, but which can be made fit, and these we hope to gradually deal with. In many of these cases it will be necessary to apply for a closing order to ensure them being put into a thorough state of repair—not slum patching. Again, there are about ten houses on a rough estimate scattered over the district which are unfit for human habitation, and which cannot be made fit. These, I hope, will gradually be demolished. The reason that more drastic action has not been taken so far is due to the fact that many of the property owners in Portland are very poor people; in many instances ownership is limited to a single house. Many of these people have to endeavour to live on the difference between mortgage interest and rentals, and consequently the Sanitary Authority have dealt with them as leniently as possible. It is also necessary that as many as possible of the low-rented houses should be preserved, especially in the Underhill district. It is impossible, owing to the price of material and labour, to build houses to-day at anything like as cheap a rate as formerly. The demand for low-rented houses always exceeds the supply.

It will be seen from Table I. that there are 100 unoccupied houses in the district at a rental of 5s. per week and under. These figures show that we are not suffering from a house famine in Portland, and that no very great hardship can be inflicted on working people by their temporary ejection in case the house has to be put into thorough repair, or of obtaining a fresh residence in case the house has to be demolished.

Table V. is a very important table and shows that the necessity for bathing accommodation is acute. Only 19 houses throughout the district at a rental of 7s. per week and under are provided with baths. As the housing question is largely a personal one, and no inconsiderable portion of it a question of cleanliness, I consider that the provision of bathing facilities demands the early attention of the Council, and I suggest that a cottage should be rented in both the Tophill and Underhill districts by the Council, and two or three baths placed therein, towels and soap provided, where working people could for a small sum, say a penny, have a hot bath when they needed one. That such baths would be made use of is shown from the figures supplied to me by the managers of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Institute, where on an average about 20 baths a week are used by working men in the district at a cost of sixpence per bath.

There are a number of houses in the district the water supply for which consists of a stand-pipe in the yard or street. It is not unusual for these stand-pipes to be frozen during a spell of cold weather. I think the time has now come when the Council should insist on taps inside the houses, and that houses without an inside water supply should be regarded as not reasonably fit for habitation. If people have no water they themselves and their houses are perforce dirty; a dirty house is an insanitary house.

With regard to the cleanliness of the houses internally, it is a question not only of the houses which the people live in, but also a question of the people who live in the houses. The Portland quarryman and his women folk are as a rule "house proud" people and have made the most of their inferior accommodation. The dwellings are as a rule scrupulously clean and well furnished. On the other hand, instances are observed in which squalor, filth, scanty furniture, dirty bedding and apparent poverty are the prevailing characteristics. There may be reasons and excuses for poverty, but there are none for dirt. Instances have come to my knowledge during the year where houses were put into fairly good order, and after a few months' occupation were in as filthy a condition as could be found in any slum. It is high time that such people should recognise the duty of doing their part in helping to keep their dwellings and yards in a cleanly state. Domestic refuse and filth should not be thrown about a yard, nor gullies and channels broken, as is so frequently the case. Water closets should not be used as receptacles for broken jars and other discarded domestic articles. If new houses were provided for some of these people they would not occupy them, for the simple reason that they have a conscientious objection against paying much rent, which would limit their consumption of alcohol. It seems almost a questionable policy to provide good houses for this class.

As the result of the inspections, representations were made to close seven houses. Closing orders were obtained in three cases; one was thoroughly repaired, and two houses were closed by the owners rather than carry out the necessary work. None have been demolished. The three houses closed by order of the Court are all in one locality, viz., Chesil. I do not believe there is likely to be any extensive demolition of property in Portland in the future, except those houses mentioned in my report.

Private Street Works.—During the year notices have been served in respect of the making up and taking over of the following streets by the Council:—

Grosvenor Road	..	..	Containing 77 houses.
Channel View Road	..	..	" 64 "
Park Road (Sec. 2)	..	..	" 8 "
Victoria Terrace	..	..	" 27 "
Veutnor Road	..	..	" 27 "

The condition of these streets in wet weather has been very bad, more especially Victoria Terrace, in part of which there is no footpath.

I regret, however, that it has been decided to take no action in connection with the back streets and side passages. These have never been made up beyond laying down some ashes over the rough clay. In wet weather these places are usually quagmires, and yet they serve frequently as a means of access for the occupants and tradesmen, and the soil is often fouled by refuse from the receptacles, or other filth thrown on the surface. From a sanitary point of view it is equally important that these places should be made up as the front streets.

None of the streets now taken over are ever likely to become main roads. In Grosvenor Road, Channel View Road, and Victoria Road, the width of the roadway is 24ft. and footpaths 6ft. wide. Is there any reason why in these three streets four feet on each side of the carriage way should not be grass-lined with scrubs or trees? It would certainly add to the beauty of the streets and save expense. The President of the Local Government Board has said in connection with the Housing and Town Planning Bill of 1909: "The Bill seeks to diminish what have been called bye-law streets with little law and much monotony."

New Houses.—During the year eight new houses have been erected and duly certified as in accordance with the bye-laws. In connection with five of these houses there is no back street nor side passage provided, and as a consequence the refuse receptacles, coal, etc., have to be carried through the living rooms. Neither has any provision been made for a food larder with a window opening into the outer air, and in four of the houses the garret is without a fire place. Yet this room would be very convenient for isolating cases of infectious disease had a fire-place been provided. If we cannot with our present building bye-laws enforce the conditions necessary for a decent and healthy house, it is high time they were amended.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milk Shops.—There are now 30 cowsheds in the occupation of 26 cowkeepers on the Council's register. These have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, 220 visits having been made during the year. The number of milch cows in the sheds amounts to 160. During the year a cowkeeper was discovered selling milk whose name was not on the register. The matter was reported to the Committee and a warning notice sent. On application for registration being made, the premises were visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and found in such an unsatisfactory condition that the Sanitary Committee will not consider them fit for occupation as a cowshed unless considerable improvements are effected.

The Memorandum of the Local Government Board as to annual reports says: "It is of especial importance that the Medical Officer of Health should record what action has been taken to remedy unhealthy conditions which have been reported by him in previous annual reports." Last year a detailed report was submitted to the Council as to the condition of the various sheds in the district, and it would be well now to consider what improvements have taken place during the year.

Drainage.—Eighteen cowsheds are drained into cesspools. "These cesspools are usually within a few feet of the shed, and in several instances I found them overflowing on to the land, being covered with only a few loose boards or stones." "No systematic and periodic cleansing of the receptacles."

During the year very little improvement has taken place.

Ventilation and Lighting.—"It is very disappointing when even the means which have been provided for ventilation in this district are not reasonably used; in fact it was not uncommon to find all available means, and every opening or crevice likely to assist to any extent in removal of the air absolutely blocked up. Speaking generally, the means provided for lighting and ventilation is neither good nor sufficient."

The ventilation and lighting in one cowshed have been improved; otherwise the conditions remain much the same.

Cleanliness of Yards, &c.—"The external conditions and arrangements are generally unsatisfactory. Many of the yards are unpaved and undrained, and some are paved with unevenly laid and defective stones."

"No proper arrangements have been made on the farms for the reception of dung and sweepings from the sheds. One generally finds that the dung is thrown out into a corner of the yard or curtilage without much regard to the distance from the cowbeds and living premises."

Ten manure receptacles have been provided. Second notices have been sent to six cowkeepers to provide proper receptacles, otherwise legal proceedings shall be taken. I regret to state there is very little improvement with regard to the manner in which the dung is thrown about the yard—in several instances huge mounds were noticed alongside the windows, blocking out the light from the sheds. Very little attention has been paid to the condition of yard surfaces, yet their condition has an important bearing on the cleanliness of milk. The only way to deal with these matters effectively is to enforce the Council's nuisance bye-laws, and the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Cleanliness of Cows and Milking.—"In many instances the cows were only fairly clean and showed no signs of careful and systematic attention. In the worst case a reprehensible neglect was apparent—the hides were covered with dust, the udders very dirty, and the hind quarters were covered with dung, only removable by tearing off the hair itself." "No appliances are actually within or sufficiently near the great majority of the sheds. It is thus at least evident that the washing of the hands after each milking of the cow is not attempted in this district."

I cannot honestly state that much improvement has taken place.

Milk Rooms.—"With few exceptions the places used as milk stores are part of the dwelling-house and communicate directly with the living room." "In the great majority, vessel washing is carried on in rooms attached to the house and used as sculleries or pantries."

No improvement.

It will be seen that this report is by no means a very satisfactory one. Surely it is now quite time that everyone concerned should be made to clearly understand that the regulations, bye-laws, and Acts of Parliament have got to be respected. One cowkeeper during the year has actually built a pig-stye on to the side of his cowshed (a corrugated iron structure), the drainage of the cowshed passing through the pig-stye. The cowshed and pig-stye are in direct communication. The matter is now being dealt with by the Council, and I trust so effectively that there will be no further repetition of this sort of thing.

During the year the cowsheds outside the district supplying milk to Portland were visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and the conditions found in connection with these sheds were most unsatisfactory in many particulars. With the majority of cowkeepers, cleanliness in the scientific sense, and such as is required to produce reasonably pure milk, is not understood. To obtain a clean milk we require *clean* sheds, *clean* cows, *clean* milkers, and *clean* milk vessels. Portland is not, as far as I can judge (from the sheds inspected outside the district), more lacking in these matters than neighbouring districts, but there can be no doubt that much greater cleanliness is required. Many of the cowkeepers imagine that straining the milk removes all the manure which gains access during the dirty manipulations which are so common. Undoubtedly much visible manure is removed by the strainers, as can be seen by looking at it after straining, but a large quantity is dissolved and passes through. In particular also, although the harmless vegetable part of the manure is kept out of the milk, the very numerous bacteria remain in it and give to it its undesirable qualities. These pass through the filter and are found in the milk.

During the year an excellent plan of a model cowshed was drawn by the Sanitary Inspector and can be inspected by anyone interested at the Council offices. Regarding some of the dimensions given in cross section, some controversy has arisen, especially as regards the channel and length of cow stall. The aim is to have the cow's stall of such length that the cow's hind feet shall stand on the edge of the channel, otherwise the excrement, instead of being discharged into the channel, falls on the stall, dirtying the cow's hind quarters and udder when she lies down. The manure channel should be about 2ft. 6in. in width and 6in. in depth. The channels found in this district are of such construction that the liquid manure becomes dammed back by the solid excrement. The tail becomes besmeared, and then in turn the cow's body, as well as the bodies of her neighbours, and of those who milk them.

Many of the old cowsheds in the district could be made sanitary and sufficient at no very great expense. The only things really required would be to remove the front of the shed and to have a proper floor with a good 2½ft. channel at the heel of the stall leading to a proper drain. The rest is a matter of keeping.

Milk Shops.—I have visited the shops where milk is sold, and have usually found the larger ones well kept, clean, and the milk covered. In the smaller ones, where milk is sold with miscellaneous articles, generally over the same counter, there has been much difficulty. These places are a constant source of trouble and danger.

Anthrax.—On March 30th, at 9 p.m., I was informed by both the dairyman and the police that one of the cows at a farm in the Underhill district had died of anthrax. It was also stated that the veterinary surgeon in attendance on the diseased animal had expressed the opinion that the cause of the outbreak was due to foodstuffs impregnated with anthrax spores. The same foodstuffs had been eaten in common by the other animals in the shed. In the circumstances I advised the dairyman, pending the carrying out of section 5 of the Anthrax Order, 1899, not to remove any milk from the shed where the animal was (section 4). I take it that the reason the Medical Officer of Health is notified of the occurrence of anthrax in accordance with the Anthrax Order is that the sanitary officials may make enquiries as to the precautions taken to prevent any chance of the milk being affected. From the nature of the information supplied to me, I looked upon all the animals in the infected shed as "suspected animals" until they had been declared free from infection by the Veterinary Inspector, or at least until the incubation period had been passed. As a matter of fact the cow which died of anthrax had been milked on the morning of the day she died and the milk added to the dairy supply. Now as several investigators have observed that the milk of cows affected with anthrax may contain the virulent bacilli of the disease, and that these are able to penetrate the delicate mucous membrane of the digestive canal in man, it was considered advisable to destroy the milk from the cows in the affected shed from March 31st to April 3rd. I advised the Sanitary Committee to pay to the farmer a modified claim of £5, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, as compensation for the milk destroyed; but with the proviso that payment was made without prejudice and without setting up a precedent.

The Council decided to pay the sum of £5 for the loss sustained, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board.

The Local Government Board, in a letter dated August 15th, 1911, sanctioned the proposed payment under the Local Authorities (Expenses) Act, 1887, but called attention to the fact that the "Board are not aware of any legal authority for the proposed payment," and further state "At the same time I am to point out that the provisions in the Anthrax Order, 1899, prohibiting the removal of milk is applicable only in the case of cows affected with anthrax, and that the removal or sale of the milk of cows which are not diseased, though they may have been in contact with a case of anthrax, is not unlawful."

Slaughter-houses.—The number of registered slaughter-houses in the district remains the same as last year, namely, three, and to these 171 visits have been paid. During the year an application was made to use a wooden building as a slaughter-house, but on the Inspector visiting the place and pointing out the work that would be necessary the project was abandoned. None of the slaughter-houses can be said to come up to the most moderate standard of modern requirements. In two of them the walls are of rough masonry, which makes proper cleansing very difficult. All three slaughter-houses are in close proximity to dwelling-houses, and in one case the shop and slaughter-house are within the same curtilage. The bye-laws as to lime-washing and the removal of garbage, offal, and skins have on the whole been fairly well observed. No proper receptacles for garbage, etc., have as yet been provided. The majority of visits have been made during the afternoon, so as to enable us to examine the animal carcasses during or shortly after slaughtering has taken place, and before removal of the carcass to the butchers' shops. It has to be remembered, however, that animals can be slaughtered at any hour of the day or night, and the carcasses removed without our first inspecting them. It is obvious that under these conditions meat inspection must be imperfect and totally inadequate, and much below the standard at an abattoir, where every animal is slaughtered under the supervision of an official. In the circumstances we do the best we can. We have not yet reached the stage said to be so common in other districts where the butchers frequently call the attention of the officials to carcasses of a diseased or of a doubtful character; nor have we noticed that readiness to surrender carcasses or organs represented to them as being unfit for human food.

In addition to the butchers who have their own slaughter-houses, there are seven others who merely trade in the meat of animals slaughtered locally or outside.

I trust the time is not far distant when the Council will consider the question of providing a public slaughter-house. The advocating of such a scheme implies no reflection on the local butchers. I have made numerous visits to the various slaughter-houses which are under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and I can testify to the satisfactory manner in which on the whole they are conducted.

Fried Fish Shops.—These are six in number, an increase of one on the previous year. These places, as well as those where wet fish is sold, were regularly visited during the year. The various nuisances found in the living premises adjoining a fish shop, and referred to in my last year's report, were remedied after the statutory notice was served. In another fish shop the walls and floor were found to be in a dirty condition, whilst in two others defective drainage and yard paving was discovered. These conditions were remedied after notices were given to the occupiers or owners. There can be no question as to the offensiveness of the fish frying trade as carried on in this district. The smell is often very unpleasant. The nuisance is sometimes intensified by the continued use for a considerable time of oil in which fish is constantly fried. The pans used are not sufficiently deep, the oil itself being rarely boiled, whilst the fish is browned or burned by actual contact with the hot pan. Strong odours are developed from the burnt fish and oil. The fact that the cooking is usually carried on on the open fire, in the open shop, and subject to draughts of wind, causes the effluvia to be blown about in all directions. Complaint is not usually made by the poor, for whom the trade is carried on; but the persons living at a little distance, whom the effluvia from the chimney may reach, or those who have frequently to pass the premises have very strong grounds for complaint. Much could be done to put a stop to all nuisance if such businesses were declared offensive trades. This the Sanitary Authority can now do under Sec. 51, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, if confirmed by the Local Government Board, and this is a matter which I trust will receive the early consideration of the Council.

Common Lodging-houses.—There are no common-lodging houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.—These are 38 in number, and on the whole are in fairly good sanitary condition. In one case serious defects were found in the drainage, and the matter is standing over to allow the owners time to arrange the re-construction of the premises, when an entirely new and approved system of drainage will be provided. Other matters such as a defective soil pipe, stables without a manure pit, defective traps, defective urinal, dirty state of conveniences, etc., have been dealt with. The owners and occupiers have at all times shown themselves ready to comply with any demands made on them in regard to sanitary work.

Unsound Food.—The administration of the Food and Drugs Act is under the direction of the County Council. The duties are carried out by the superintendents of the police of the various districts, acting under the orders of the Chief Constable. I am indebted to the courtesy of the Chief Constable for the following return as to the action taken in this district for the year 1910:—

Sample.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.	Action taken.
Butter	.. 6	..	..	..
Etc.	.. 6	..	..	..
Milk	.. 16	3	1 deprived of 51 per cent. of fat.	} Fined 5s. and 13s. 6d. Costs.
			1 contained 2 per cent. of added water.	
			1 contained 6 per cent. of added water.	} Cautioned.
				} Dismissed on payment of £1 towards Costs.

The only comment I would make on the above is the following. There is a recommendation of the Board of Agriculture that the total number of samples taken should total not less than 3 per 1,000 of the population, and half of these should be milk. Our population is estimated at 12,400. If, therefore, the recommendation of the Board of Agriculture had been complied with, 38 samples should have been taken, 19 of which should have been milk. The total number actually taken was 28, 16 of which were milk. I have repeatedly had complaints as to the poorness of the quality of milk sold in the district. It does not speak well when 18 per cent. of the milk samples taken during the year were certified as adulterated. I think it is very desirable that the Council should allow the Sanitary Inspector to take informal or test samples, as this method generally fixes the offence upon the proper person. I am also of opinion that such samples would afford a better indication of the amount of adulteration, than is given by the form of samples taken by the police.

Much attention has been directed during the year to the inspection (which is under the control of the Sanitary Authority) of meat, fish, and other perishable articles of food. The various butchers, fishmongers, greengrocers, shops, and other places where food is sold were frequently inspected during the year. Attention has also been directed by the Sanitary Inspector to hawkers of fish, fruit, etc., from outside districts, resulting in a much better quality of stuff being now exposed for sale.

A considerable amount of work has been done in connection with the Admiralty slaughter-house during the year. The arrangements in force are as follows:—As soon as the Admiralty Meat Inspector discovers any suspicious carcase he at once communicates with me, and the slaughter-house is promptly visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. If we find the carcase diseased, etc., we request the contractor's agent to surrender part or the whole of the carcase, as the case may be, for destruction. My instructions are readily complied with. In past years the meat rejected by the Admiralty used to be removed, and its destination was unknown. The following represents the diseased meat destroyed as unfit for human food during the year:—

1910,				
Jan. 2nd—	{ Two hind quarters of beef	..	localised tuberculosis, weight 236 lbs.	
	{ Two fore quarters of beef	..	" " " "	337 "
	{ One carcase of beef	..	generalized tuberculosis	632 "
Feb. 14th—	One carcase of beef	..	" " " "	560 "
March 26th—	One carcase of beef	..	" " " "	293 "
May 6th—	One carcase of beef	..	" " " "	400 "
Nov. 15th—	One carcase of beef	..	" " " "	504 "
Dec. 23rd—	One carcase of beef	..	" " " "	576 "
Total				3,538 lbs.
Liver, Lungs and other internal organs found in examinations to be locally diseased }				250 lbs.

Two immature calves and three lambs which were found by the Sanitary Inspector in the local slaughter-houses were surrendered and destroyed.

In a number of instances the organs of animals were found to be affected with some parasitic or local infection, and these were in each case destroyed. Considerable quantities of vegetables (principally for H.M. ships) are brought by coasting vessels to Castletown Wharf, Portland. Arrangements have now been made that these cargoes shall be sorted in a store at Castletown under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. In this way we hope to be able to control the ultimate destination of such foodstuffs as are rejected.

A large quantity of home-killed meats of all kinds arrives in the district from neighbouring districts, as well as frozen and chilled meat of all kinds from the Colonies and foreign countries. All meat coming from foreign parts to this country bears evidence of having been inspected and passed as fit for human consumption, and bears a stamp either on the carcase or covering to the effect that it has been so inspected. Home dead meat reaches the district by road chiefly, and bears no evidence of having been inspected in any way. As a matter of fact we are aware that a considerable quantity of it has not undergone any examination by the responsible officers of the districts from which it comes. On visiting the meat shops we found the glands of the throat in pigs from foreign parts incised and the parts kept open by means of skewers; the carcasses also bore a stamp that they had been inspected. These pigs are exposed for sale side by side with an English pig—the one warranted, the other not. By that fact the British farmer is heavily handicapped. To remedy this anomaly, so far as our own district is concerned, the Sanitary Inspector and myself visit the meat shops regularly once a week, and the glands of the neck in pigs exposed for sale are incised and examined, and thus some sort of guarantee is given to the consumer that the meat is fit for human food.

The Sanitary Inspector is qualified, and holds as well the meat and food inspector's certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. The necessary training undergone to obtain the latter certificate has done much towards placing the food inspection of the district on a higher level.

Offensive Trades—No offensive trades as legally defined are carried on within the district, but in that part of my report dealing with fried fish shops, recommendation is made to treat such businesses as offensive trades under section 51, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Ice Cream Shops.—Several ice cream shops were opened during the summer. They are treated in every respect as milk shops. The premises and utensils were found in good condition.

Nuisances.—Frequent complaints are received with regard to pigstyes and deposits of manure.

With regard to the former, 75 feet is the permissible distance between pigstyes and a dwelling-house, as laid down by the bye-laws. At a much greater distance than this complaint was made to me as to the nuisance arising from a pig-stye. Whilst the Sanitary Committee has no desire to interfere with what is a useful form of thrift, yet it has to be clearly understood that it must be practiced without annoyance to those people living in proximity.

With regard to manure pits, dung heaps, etc., the chief complaint is the "fly nuisance" to which they give rise.

The Local Government Board are carrying out a special investigation with regard to flies, and a special report has been made by Mr. Newstead, Lecturer on Entomology to the City Council of Liverpool.

Mr. Newstead shows:—

- (1) That the chief breeding places of the house fly are:—
 - (a) Stable middens containing fermenting horse manure, or a mixture of this and cow dung.
 - (b) Middens containing fermenting spent hops; and
 - (c) Ash-pits containing fermenting vegetable matter.
- (2) That flies do not breed in ash-pits which are emptied at short intervals.
- (3) That the life history of the fly is divided into four stages—the egg, the larvæ or maggot, the pupæ or chrysalis, and the perfect fly, and that the development of the perfect fly from the egg may take ten to fourteen days in fermenting material, and in the absence of artificial heat produced by fermentation from three to five weeks, according to temperature.

Mr. Newstead recommends that manure should not be allowed to accumulate in the middens from May to October for a period of more than seven days; that all middens should be thoroughly emptied and carefully swept, and that the walls should be smooth and well pointed.

In this district it is usual for it to be left lying about in close proximity to dwelling-houses and cowsheds for months. When such manure is allowed to accumulate to a large quantity its removal is very offensive, and the stench often most pungent and far-reaching. It is quite capable of passing through ordinary brick walls, to say nothing of doors and windows. For some inscrutable reason the dung of animals has come to be regarded by the public as almost unobjectionable, while the sight of a few ounces of human excrement will sometimes cause quite an uproar.

Again, many of the receptacles are far too large and not pointed on the top. It is also a common practice for the men who have to empty them not to empty them completely, but to leave some fermenting matters at the bottom and sides, which favours the breeding of flies. Fly pupæ could be found in the crevices in swarms in any of those manure pits I examined after they were supposed to be cleaned out.

The Council have power under section 50, Public Health Act, 1875, to cause manure to be removed at certain intervals. While an interval of a week would be reasonable in the Underhill district, it would not be reasonable in the Tophill district, as the latter is semi-rural. The Council's nuisance bye-laws made in 1899 allow an interval of 14 days for the removal of dung, and there can be no question but that these bye-laws should be enforced throughout the whole district. Too much latitude has been allowed in this matter, although attention has been called time after time to the non-enforcement of these bye-laws. For what reason were these bye-laws made if not to be enforced? Surely not to be broken with impunity. As your bye-laws are justly and righteously enforced, just in the same ratio will they become respected.

Factory and Workshops Act.—As usual, a good deal of time and attention has been devoted to the inspection of workshops and work-places. By section 131 of this Act the local authority is directed to keep a register of work-places in their district and is responsible for the sanitary condition of workshops, work-places, and the homes of out-workers. "Sanitary conditions" includes (a) cleanliness, (b) overcrowding, (c) ventilation, (d) drainage of floor of workshops in which any process is carried on which renders the floor liable to be wet to such an extent that wet is capable of being removed by drainage, (e) sanitary conveniences. The number of workshops on the register at the end of the year was 96, an increase of five on the previous year. Most of these were discovered during the course of the house-to-house inspection, being only small businesses and providing employment for only one or two workers.

The administration of the Act as regards factories is under the Government Factory Inspector, and any defects or deficiencies in the sanitary accommodation, etc., noticed by him are reported to the Local Authority, and remedied under the Public Health Acts.

Our attention has been called to one workshop in a dirty condition by H.M. Inspector of Factories. This defect has been remedied, and notice to that effect has been sent to the Factory Inspector.

Cleanliness.—Six workshops were found to require the ceiling or walls, or both, cleansed and limewashed or repaired, and the necessary cleansing and limewashing has been done in each case.

Overcrowding.—No workshops were found to be overcrowded during the year. Ten workrooms were measured up and cards setting out the measurements have been supplied to the occupiers stating how many persons could be employed in each workroom.

Ventilation.—In these workshops which were found to be insufficiently ventilated none of the windows opened from the top. In each case the upper sashes have been made to open, whereby efficient ventilation may be maintained, that is if the occupiers will only make use of the means provided, but too frequently ventilators are kept closed, and even permanent ventilation openings are carefully pasted over with paper.

Sanitary Conveniences.—Six workshops were found to have unsuitable or defective w.c. accommodation. The defective water closets have been repaired and put into good sanitary condition.

Other nuisances were caused by defective drains, unpaved yards, and minor matters. In many instances they were remedied on verbal notice being given, in others written notices were served; but in no case was it necessary to institute legal proceedings. In no instance was any case found where wearing apparel was being made, cleansed, or repaired in a house while any inmate was suffering from infectious disease.

No Lists of out-workers have been supplied, and from enquiries at the different establishments I cannot obtain information that any such workers are employed.

The workshops on the register are classified as follows :—

Clothing, etc.—				
Dressmakers and Milliners	..	..	..	16
Tailors and Tailoresses	..	..	..	5
Bootmakers and Repairers	..	..	..	13
				—34
Conveyances, etc.—				
Boatbuilder	..	..	..	1
Saddler	..	..	..	1
Farriers and Blacksmiths	..	..	..	9
Cycle Repairer	..	..	..	1
				—12
Bakers and Confectioners	..	..	..	11
				—11
Building Trades—				
Carpenters and Builders	..	..	..	8
Painters and Plumbers	..	..	..	4
Lime Burner	..	..	..	1
Monumental Mason	..	..	..	1
				—14
Laundries—				
Domestic Laundries	..	..	..	9
				— 9
Other Trades—				
Tinsmith's Repairs	..	..	..	1
Watch Repairing	..	..	..	4
Netmaker	..	..	..	1
Photographers	..	..	..	3
Hairdressers	..	..	..	6
Musical Repairs	..	..	..	1
				—16
Total				96

Bakehouses.—There are eleven workshop bakehouses and four factory bakehouses in the district. Of these, 14 are above ground and one is underground. The underground bakehouse has been certified by the Sanitary Authority as being suitable with regard to its construction, lighting, ventilation, water supply, drainage, and in all other respects. One of the older bakehouses has been re-modelled during the year—a good concrete floor has been put down and through ventilation secured. The ovens have also been altered, so that firing is now done outside the bakehouse: this effectually prevents contamination of the air of the bakehouse from smoke and fumes, which formerly occurred when stoking of the ovens was done from the inside. All the bakehouses have been inspected many times during the year, and with the exception of the want of proper receptacles for the coal, and nuisance arising from the ashes where the ovens are fired from the front, I consider them on the whole fairly well kept and clean.

In conformity with the directions of the Local Government Board, I have made systematic inspection of the various parts of the district and have made myself acquainted as far as possible with the conditions affecting the public health of the Island.

I take the opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the assistance rendered me during the year by Mr. G. H. Smith, your Sanitary Inspector. I also wish to thank the members of the Sanitary Committee in particular and the members of the Council generally for the kindness and courtesy with which they have always treated me, and for the kindly consideration they have invariably given to my suggestions.

Shaftesbury—Mr. H. F. S. Blucke.

The Area of the District is 100 acres. The *population* according to the last census is 2215. The number of inhabited houses is 445, with an average number of inmates of 4·97.

Births.—The total number of births in the Borough during the year was 26, giving a birth-rate of 12·82 per 1,000 of the population. There were no illegitimate births. There were born in

1st quarter	..	..	..	8 males	6 females
2nd „	..	..	..	1 „	2 „
3rd „	..	..	..	2 „	4 „
4th „	..	..	..	3 „	0 „

The number of births during the preceding ten years were as follows :—

1900	..	37	1905	..	34
1901	..	42	1906	..	31
1902	..	52	1907	..	61
1903	..	36	1908	..	37
1904	..	35	1909	..	33

An average of 39·8,

so that the number of births during 1910 was much below the average.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the Borough during the year was 28. Two of these occurred at the Cottage Hospital of persons not belonging to the Borough, showing a death-rate for the Borough of 12·82

Deaths registered during the different months of the year were as follows :—

January	2	April	4	July	2	Oct.	3
February	1	May	2	Aug.	2	Nov.	0
March	3	June	2	Sept.	4	Dec.	3

Deaths registered during the preceding ten years were :—

1900	..	31	1905	..	26
1901	..	41	1906	..	23
1902	..	41	1907	..	22
1903	..	28	1908	..	28
1904	..	27	1909	..	28

An average of 29·5.

Zymotic disease has been remarkably absent from the Borough. The schools were closed for a fortnight at the beginning of the year owing to a continuance of the epidemic of measles mentioned in my last report.

I have received only one notification of infectious disease, viz. : Erysipelas.

I hope shortly to commence a vigorous campaign against rats, which are so great a source of danger to the community. I am glad to report that so far as my information goes the numbers have already been reduced.

The Water Supply.—The quality of the water supplied to the Borough has been excellent, from 8 a.m. to six p.m. daily, the lower portion of the town being supplied constantly. The water is obtained from a spring, and stored in a reservoir above the Borough, on Little Down.

The Drainage is on the irrigation system, and the sewage is carried to a farm below the town, about half a-mile distant.

House to house inspections have been made in various portions of the Borough, and inspections are being made under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, with a view to obtaining the information required by the Act.

The Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging-houses, Bakehouses and Workshops were inspected and found in fairly satisfactory condition.

The following nuisances were found to exist, and have been abated :—

Insufficient or unsatisfactory closet accommodation or drainage	11
Overcrowding	1
Bakehouse walls, etc., not in clean condition	2
Defective drainage	1

The Health of the Borough is now satisfactory considering the prevalence of cold weather and influenza.

Sherborne—Mr. H. Nutt.

Throughout the whole year the General Health has been exceptionally good throughout the district, while sanitary work has been efficiently carried out, and it will be my endeavour to show by this Report that the Council and their Officials have not been wanting in their efforts to discharge their duties for the promotion of the Public Health and the general welfare and prosperity of the Town.

AREA OF DISTRICT 929 ACRES, LESS INLAND WATER 922.

Population as per Census, 1901—5760; estimated to middle of 1910—6130.

The occupation is much the same as stated in my previous Reports, viz. :—Agriculture and the manufacture of gloves. The silk factory which thrived for so many years, and for which Sherborne was noted, has now disappeared, and part of the old factory is now in the occupation of a builder and the rest is used for silk weaving and accompanying processes. The art of silk throwstery appears to be gone as far as Sherborne is concerned, and in these competitive times, probably never to return. Other modern factories of late years have been introduced, as a factory for letter-press printing, and a steam sanitary laundry, which now afford employment for many, and it is hoped will shortly be further developed.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Sherborne (Urban)—continued.

Sherborne is now principally noted for its Educational Status, it is well provided with good schools for every grade, and there is now a large school flourishing, for the higher education of girls, and this, with its ancient Endowment by King Edward VI., combined with its noted and venerable Abbey, and other historic buildings, should undoubtedly very much enhance the town as a residential spot.

Vital Statistics.

<i>Mortality—</i>			Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter	..		12	14	26
2nd „	..		12	12	24
3rd „	..		12	7	19
4th „	..		9	12	21
			—	—	—
			45	45	90
			—	—	—

Thirteen of the above were of persons not belonging to the district, equals 77.

General Death-rate—14·68 per 1000 of the population.

Actual Death-rate—12·66 „ „ „

Deaths occurring in Institutions.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total
The Yeatman Hospital	2	4	2	3	11
S.S. John's Almshouse	0	0	1	1	2
The Union Workhouse	4	5	7	4	20
	—	—	—	—	—
	6	9	10	8	33
	—	—	—	—	—

Ages at which death occurred.

	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5	5 years and under 15	15 years and under 25	25 years and under 65	65 years and up- wards	Total.
1st Quarter	.. 6	2	0	0	4	14	26
2nd „	.. 4	1	2	1	6	10	24
3rd „	.. 1	0	1	1	7	9	19
4th „	.. 1	1	0	1	5	13	21
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	12	4	3	3	22	46	90
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Deaths of 80 years and upwards :—

1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
5	3	5	3	16

The greatest age attained was 87 years.

Average age at which death occurred—47 years.

Births

	Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter	.. .. 23	15	38
2nd „	.. .. 14	11	25
3rd „	.. .. 14	20	34
4th „	.. .. 15	9	24
	—	—	—
	66	55	121
	—	—	—

The Annual Birth-rate is 17·73 per 1000 of the population.

Notification of Infectious Diseases Act.—17 Certificates were received under the above Act during the whole year :—

1st Quarter	..	Scarlet Fever, 2			
2nd „	..	„ 1	Diphtheria, 1	Typhoid, 1	} 17
3rd „	..	„ 5	Erysipelas, 3		
4th „	..	„ 4			

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Sherborne (Urban)—continued.

Cause of Death :—

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	6	2	1	3	12
Phthisis	0	1	0	2	3
Cerebral	5	2	5	2	14
Heart Disease	3	3	2	6	14
Cancer	1	1	1	2	5
Typhoid	0	1	0	0	1
Diarrhœa	0	0	0	0	0
Pyœmia	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1	0	1
Debility from Birth	3	0	0	0	3
Premature Birth	0	1	0	0	1
Old Age and General Causes	8	13	6	6	33
	26	24	16	21	87

Three inquests were held during the year within the Urban District :—

Suicide, 1	Accident, 1	Natural Causes, 1	Total 3.
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Prevalence of Disease.—Seventeen Certificates under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act were received during the year. Twelve cases were Scarlet Fever, which were generally of a mild type, and the disease of a sporadic character, with the exception of one death, that of a woman aged 29 years, who was in the Puerperal state, and was notified as suffering from Scarlet Fever, died within a few days, and the cause of death registered was Scarlet Fever, Septic Phlebitis, Cardiac Embolism.

There was also during the second quarter, one death, the cause of which was ascribed to Typhoid Fever—that of a patient, a male, aged 41 years. There was no death from the Zymotic class of disease or of any fever whatsoever.

I am not aware that the infective cause of the case of “Typhoid” was definitely ascertained; but on my visit to the premises where it is supposed the case originated, there was no nuisance complained of, and the house drainage and water supply appeared to be all right; but I found in a small room upstairs, which for some time had been used as a study by the patient, a disused waste pipe which had been cut off from a bath or wash basin and not closed or sealed, but this end left in the room, the rest of the pipe passing through the wall outside in close contiguity with a surface drain, whereby sewer gas might have been eliminated, and, as the patient was accustomed to sit and study in the room, he might have inhaled this sewer gas; this was the only opinion I could form as the rest of the house appeared to be in a *satisfactory sanitary condition*.

With regard to the general health of the district the year 1910 may be considered to have been a *most satisfactory one*, and this, coupled with the almost total freedom of Zymotic Diseases and Epidemics of every kind, and the absence of Infantile Diarrhœa throughout the year is a matter of congratulation for the Sanitary Authority.

Isolation Hospital.—Four cases—all Scarlet Fever, were removed to the Hospital during the year. What I said in my last and previous Reports, will apply now. It is in a most unsatisfactory condition, and as it is, it is all but impossible to treat more than one disease at a time—there is no provision for a caretaker or nurses; the latter have to sleep in cubicles, taken out of the ward space. What is required and urgently needed, is new efficient accommodation for the Staff and another ward added; and should be erected on more permanent lines than the present galvanised iron building.

General Sanitary Work.—I have personally, periodically and frequently, made inspections throughout the district, and in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector, at all times when requested by him to do so, in such cases where necessity has arisen, we have always been well received, our suggestions and requirements have been at all times readily carried out in the abatement of nuisances and all complaints.

Disinfection.—In all cases where Infectious Disease has been present, the houses have afterwards been thoroughly disinfected. Beds and bedding and other articles requiring it, have been removed by the Council's workmen to the Isolation Hospital and subjected to the action of the steam disinfector, the latter does it work well, it is a great boon and is very much appreciated by all classes. There is also an ambulance kept at the Isolation Hospital, which is excellent for the conveyance of infected patients, and has been of good service. Disinfection of the rooms where patients suffering from Consumption, Tuberculosis, have died, has been efficiently carried out, and sanitary assistance would at all times be rendered, if it were known where this disease was located, but except in some cases notification of Tuberculosis is not compulsory.

Dairies, Milk Shops, Cow Sheds, Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses.—These have been regularly inspected both by the Inspector and myself and all have been found to be in a satisfactory condition, and in this respect much more attention is given to Sanitary matters than formerly.

Whitewashing, cleansing, and ventilation have not been neglected. The bakehouses are now mostly of modern construction with up-to-date appliances, there is no underground bakehouse in use within the district. The slaughter houses are well kept and all offensive matter removed daily. Limewashing periodically effected. The one great improvement wanting now is the public *abattoir*, which, I believe, would not only be hailed by the general public, but would be readily accepted by the trade itself. The dairies were all found to be in a satisfactory condition as to cleansing and ventilation, but some were in advance of others. I cannot but remark that I should like to see more attention paid to the cow itself as to grooming daily the hind quarters, cleansing of the udders, and also the milkers to pay more attention washing of their hands before milking, when it is considered what a valuable and indispensable article of food milk is, the whole process of its production cannot be too much guarded against contamination and adulteration. The cowsheds and yards have been looked after by the Inspector and improvement in this respect is also well marked.

The Scavenging and Flushing of the Drains.—This is regularly and effectually carried out. House refuse is removed twice a week, the streets swept daily, and the principal business street twice a day. During the hot or dry weather the streets are regularly and continuously well watered.

The water supply continues abundant and of excellent quality for potable and domestic purposes, as frequently proved by analysis, some people take exception to the hardness, but in my opinion this does not materially affect its hygienic properties.

Midwives' Act.—This matter remains much the same as stated in my previous reports, the Act came into full force at the beginning of this year. I am not aware that your Council have done anything at present as to the organization of Registered Midwives, or the better supply of trained nurses in the district. I now know of only one midwife on the register, and she also acts as general district nurse.

It was my duty in October to report a case to your Council in which a woman without any qualification, and who had been cautioned several times during the time allowed, that after April, 1910, it would be unlawful for any woman without a qualification, and not on the Midwives' Register, to undertake attendance upon a woman in labour for gain, unless under the care and instructions of a medical practitioner; it so happened that this woman had attended a case of a married woman within the district unaided and unassisted by any medical man, that the child was still-born, and the case was duly reported to the Coroner and Police, who held an investigation, when it appeared there were circumstances of extenuation which would not render the woman liable to penalties. I felt it my duty to report the case to your Council, no doubt it will act as a caution and bring the Act more prominently before many it more especially concerned.

The drainage has continued satisfactory; I have not had any complaint. A new main sewer was commenced to be laid at the latter part of the year in the Avenue to connect the new houses, which is now nearly completed; it will be 400 yards, of best quality of 9-in. glazed pipe, with necessary manholes. Most of the houses are now in the principal streets connected with the main sewer which runs generally about the centre of the road and they are severally trapped.

The water closet system is now generally adopted throughout the district, and, with the exception of one or two cottages just on the outside, which have earth closets, I believe is universal.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Inspection has been frequently carried out during the year, both by the Inspector and myself, conjointly and independently. No case of overcrowding has been brought under my notice, and I have not found it necessary to condemn any house as unfit for human habitation. From my personal experience great and progressive improvement in this matter has taken place during the last few years as to existing houses, but there is still much left to be desired. More houses are urgently needed at a moderate rent, which can be met by the wage-earning class. Houses are wanted with at least three bedrooms that could be let for 3/- or at the most 3/6 per week. I understand your Council are most desirous to take advantage of the new Act and carry it out to the full extent if they can get the support of the Local Government Board; if a bathroom could also be added to each house it would be greatly in the interests of the public health.

Unsound Food.—Only on one occasion have I had to deal with this. During October I was requested by the Sanitary Inspector to visit premises where fried fish was sold. A consignment of fish, principally whiting, had been received that morning in a most offensive condition. I examined it in the presence of the Inspector, and found it to be in a decomposed and putrid state, quite unfit for food. I condemned it and suggested its immediate destruction by burning; this was carried out under the supervision of the Inspector, by the Council's workmen.

There is no offensive trade carried on within the district.

There is no common lodging house.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—Under this Act, the following samples were taken by the County Inspectors during the year, within the District, and sent for analysis:—Milk, 16; Butter, 6; Pepper, 1; Cheese, 5.

All were certified to be genuine.

The Factories and Workshops.—These have been periodically inspected throughout the year, and found to be in a satisfactory condition. Ventilation and all matters relating to sanitation are strictly observed, and the requirements of the Act appear to be fully complied with.

Further particulars are given in the table that accompanies this Report.

Nuisances and other Sanitary Work.—The following summary will show how these have been dealt with:—

- 66 orders for sanitary amendment of houses and premises.
- 10 houses and premises cleaned, repaired and white-washed.
- 9 houses disinfected after infectious illness.
- 28 new house drains provided.
- 42 house drains cleaned, repaired and trapped.
- 35 new privies or w.c.'s provided.
- 36 w.c.'s repaired.
- 5 supplied with water.
- 20 removal of accumulations of manure, animal and other refuse.
- 3 animals removed being improperly kept.

Improvements.—34 plans were passed during the year, 16 of these were for new buildings of the better class of houses (of the villa type 18 minor alterations.

No new cottages were erected for the working class.

One plan was for the new County (Elementary) School.

I must now commend this report for your consideration, hoping it shows fully that there is no relaxation or falling off of the Council or their officials in their endeavours to discharge their duty in promoting Sanitary work, and although there is nothing very eventful to record, nevertheless the year 1910 may be considered to have been a satisfactory one as far as the general health is concerned in the Sherborne Urban District, which is a matter worthy of congratulation.

Swanage—Dr. A. S. McCausland.

Population, 4,200. The population last Census (1901) was 3,404, since then numerous houses have been built, and I now estimate the population at 4,200.

Birth-rate.—There were 81 births, making a birth-rate calculated per 1,000 of the population of 19·2.

Death-rate.—The death-rate was 13·5 per 1,000, there being 57 deaths.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death was 51·3 years.

Zymotic death-rate.—This year we had five deaths from Zymotic diseases. Two cases of typhoid, one scarlet fever, one puerperal fever, and one whooping cough, making a mortality of 1·1 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—There were seven deaths under one year of age, making a mortality of 86·4 per 1,000 registered births.

Prevalence of Disease.—During the year there were 75 cases of infectious diseases notified—an unprecedented number for Swanage. There were 52 cases of scarlet fever of an extremely mild type, which no doubt led to the spreading of the complaint, as there were some cases who had been peeling two or three weeks before being discovered and removed to the Isolation Hospital. On November 10th, the Infant School at Swanage was closed for six weeks and disinfected.

Of these 52 cases, 30 were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the houses disinfected, and in no instance on their return from Hospital did they convey the disease to the inmates of their homes. There were two cases of erysipelas notified, one of diphtheria, and one puerperal fever. Nineteen cases of typhoid fever occurred in the district: except for one imported case in January, the whole were notified between September 13th and November 14th. This small outbreak was the subject of a Local Government Board Inquiry, when the evidence was practically conclusive that the carrier of the infective germs was the water from a certain well used by the Water Company in their high pressure system, the well in question having possibly become infected from some defective sewers in the neighbourhood, or from land soakage after heavy rain. The water from this well was stopped, the reservoir chemically cleaned, and no further cases of typhoid occurred.

Water Supply.—The supply was ample; but in consequence of the unfavourable bacteriological analysis of two of the wells, which are partially used during the summer months, the Water Company will have to seek a fresh water supply elsewhere to supplement the Ulwell source, which is sufficient for the winter and spring months.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Some supplemental surface water drains had to be made, or at high tide with an excessive rainfall in some of the low-lying parts of the town, the sewers overflowed through the manholes and gully gratings. Some further main pipe sewers are also to be laid in place of some old ones and an open stone drain which was laid about fifty years ago.

Isolation Hospital.—The Isolation Hospital situated at Herston contains 14 beds for scarlet fever only, 30 cases were treated during the year and no deaths.

Disinfecting Apparatus.—We have no special disinfecting apparatus, but disinfect rooms and bedding with formalin vapour and sulphur dioxide.

Slaughter Houses—Two outside the town are licensed. There has been some complaint about one, where there is a disagreeable smell attending on the boiling of pigs food; the owner has promised to discontinue doing this—otherwise the premises are satisfactory.

Bakehouses and Dairies.—These have been inspected frequently during the year, and on the whole are in a satisfactory state, although in some instances the cowhouses are not cleansed out often enough to be quite up to modern requirements, though I have not been able to trace any infectious disease being due to the milk supply.

Factories and Workshops.—These are all small businesses; many have been inspected during the year and no sanitary defect observed.

General Remarks.—The death-rate during the year has been 13·5 per 1,000, somewhat higher than the average of the last ten years, which is 11·1. The infant mortality was below the average. There were 23 deaths over 65 years of age, eight due to senile decay. As the Isolation Hospital is only for scarlet fever, we had to send twelve of our typhoid cases to the Cottage Hospital where they were ably nursed by the matron and her staff. The mortality, if left at home, would I feel sure have been much higher if deprived of skilled nursing.

The drainage of Swanage was thoroughly examined by one of your Committees, and certain recommendations agreed upon as to new sewers in certain parts and the state of outfall to be examined by a diver. Some of these recommendations have been carried out, and the rest are to be finished at the beginning of 1911.

Work done by Sanitary Inspector and Self:

Inspection of Houses	450
Houses cleaned	25
Houses disinfected	54
House drains repaired and trapped	11
Removal of manure	5

Wareham—Mr. K. J. Courtenay.

Area.—The area of the Borough is 247 acres.

Population.—The population is estimated to the middle of 1910 at 2,000.

Death-rate.—Including the Workhouse there were 43 deaths, of which 10 were those of non-residents. This gives a death-rate of 16·5 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.—There were three deaths of infants under one year. This is at the rate of 68 per 1,000 births registered.

Birth-rate.—There were 44 births registered. This gives a birth-rate of 22 per 1,000.

Zymotic Disease.—No deaths occurred under this heading.

Infectious Disease.—I have received three notifications, viz., two from erysipelas and one from scarlet fever. The latter was sent to the Isolation Hospital.

Water Supply.—This is most satisfactory.

Sewage and Drainage.—Earth closets are taking the place of vault privies as opportunities occur. I strongly advocate a system of collection, as some people have no gardens and so have no means of disposing of the night-soil. More care should be taken with the drains leading into the streets. They should be more frequently flushed and disinfectants used. As we have no proper system of drainage, it is most important to take all possible precautions for cleanliness.

Dairies, Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses and Lodging-houses.—On the whole these are in a satisfactory condition. The Slaughter-houses require more attention. I should recommend more regular cleansing and that they should be white-washed at least four times a year.

General.—I am engaged in making a general inspection of the sanitary condition of the houses in the Borough and hope to complete it early in the year.

Again I strongly advocate the desirability of a public slaughter-house. I have suggested certain alterations regarding some of the dairies in the town and hope they will be carried out.

The case of scarlet fever I have mentioned was of an extremely mild type.

The general health and condition of the town at the end of the year were very satisfactory.

Weymouth and Melcombe Regis—Mr. W. B. Barclay.

In accordance with section XIV. of Art. 18 of the Local Government Order as to the duties of the Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour of submitting to you my Sixth Annual Report on the health of the district.

As it seems to be a generally accepted idea, to which expression has been given, that the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, apart from the vital statistics, should consist principally of panegyrics of his district, and that all sins of omission and commission should be strictly taboo, I give as a preamble to the Report, the Memorandum issued by the Local Government Board, through the Local Authority to each Medical Officer of Health.

I have to sincerely thank the members of the Council, and more particularly the Chairman and members of the Sanitary Committee, for their uniform kindness throughout the year. The unflinching support I have received from the latter have rendered my duties lighter and made a difficult post pleasant. The Medical profession have, as always, willingly co-operated with me in the matter of infectious diseases and all other matters tending towards the good of the Borough, and my thanks are extended to them also.

The many extra duties that have this year fallen upon me have been materially lightened by the assistance of my Deputy, Dr. Croker-Fox, who has at all times been ready to relieve me of the laboratory and other work in times of pressure. The loyal and whole-souled assistance of the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Fanner, and Nurse Lethbridge, who have worked at all hours and during holiday seasons, I cannot adequately express my appreciation of. The return of their work in the tables of this Report is but a slight index of the work they actually perform.

It is difficult to separate entirely the work of the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer, so constantly do they overlap and intermingle, and as the work of the latter develops, the importance of the combination of the two offices becomes more and more evident.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

<i>Area of the Borough in statute acres</i>	..	..	1,616½.
<i>Population, Census 1901</i>	..	..	19,843.
" <i>Estimated middle of June, 1910</i>	..	..	23,000.
<i>Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1901</i>	..	..	3,881.
" " " <i>1910</i>	..	..	4,884.
<i>Average Number of Persons per House, 1901</i>	..	..	5·1.
<i>Density of Population.—Persons per acre</i>	..	..	17.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	..	..	18·7.
<i>Death-rate, corrected</i>	..	..	12·3.
<i>Zymotic death-rate</i>	..	..	·6.
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	..	..	55·3.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

The Borough.—The Borough is formed from the union of the two ancient and separate boroughs of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis separated by the harbour and its prolongation—West and North—the Backwater.

Melcombe Regis lies to the East of the Backwater and North of the Harbour, it is the more level of the two, the maximum height above sea level being 108 feet. It is divided into two Wards, North and South. The geological formation of the greater portion of Melcombe Regis is Oxford clay, but that portion facing the Bay has an overlying strata of shingle and sand to a depth of 8 or 10 feet.

Weymouth lying to the West and South of the Harbour and Backwater is the more hilly portion, the gradients being steeper, the maximum height being 175 feet. The geological formation is Clay and Coral Rag.

The Area of the Borough was considerably enlarged in 1895 by including a portion of the Radipole Parish in Melcombe Regis and of Wyke Regis in Weymouth.

The Area as given me by the Borough Engineer is—

					ACRES.
Old Borough	{	Land .. ..	..	..	452 $\frac{1}{4}$
		Tidal Waters .. ..	..	..	311
					<hr/> 763 $\frac{1}{4}$
Extension ..	{	Radipole .. ..	..	..	437
		Wyke Regis .. ..	..	..	416 $\frac{3}{8}$
					<hr/> 853 $\frac{3}{8}$
Total					<hr/> 1616 $\frac{5}{8}$

Population.—As in all years, except the census year, this has to be estimated, and in consequence of the extension of the Borough in 1895, the usual method of estimation by calculating the rate of increase as being the same in each decennial period is not available.

It is somewhat difficult to arrive at a correct estimate, and I have taken all the various methods and struck an average, correcting this by means of the number of inhabited houses and the average number of persons to each house as at the census in 1901.

The estimation has to be made for the normal resident population as at the end of June, and does not take into account visitors, of which the town is never entirely free, between the annual summer immigrants and the visits of the Fleet.

The average number of inhabited houses as given me by the Rate Collector is a considerable increase upon former years, and estimating the population by this means it gives roughly 25,000, but I consider this an over-estimation, and for statistical purposes will retain the population as last year, viz., 23,000. The increase, however, in actual number of inhabited houses is so much greater in Melcombe Regis that it is advisable to consider the population of each portion of the Borough as equal.

The Census will be taken in April this year and all statistics based on the population will be subject to revision when the actual figures are available.

Meteorology.—Full details of the Meteorology of the Borough will be found in the appended Report of the Honorary Meteorologist, Mr. I. J. Brown, F.R.Met.Soc., but the following summary of his Report may be of interest:—

Highest Maximum Temperature	76·9°	Aug. 10th.
Lowest Minimum	20·3°	Jan. 27th.
Mean Maximum	56·8°	
Mean Minimum	45·8°	
Mean of Maximum and Minimum	51·3°	
Difference from Average	+0·6°	
Number of days on which rain fell	184	
Total fall in inches	30·65	
Mean Relative Humidity	80%	
Number of hours of bright sunshine	1693·7	
Days on which sun shone	307	

Climate.—The Naples of England, as it aptly has been termed, possesses one of the most equable climates in the country.

Its rare geographical position, situated at the extremity of a promontory, sheltered from the North by the Dorset Hills, with the Crescent Bay facing the East, and with the pure, fresh and invigorating breezes of the English Channel fanning it from the West, with its wealth of bright sunshine, its small rainfall, its soft yet mildly invigorating atmosphere free from any oppressive humidity, Weymouth equals, if it does not excel, any other health resort in the country.

Although in easterly winds the Esplanade is somewhat exposed, yet one has only to travel to another portion of the Borough where the outlook is to the South and West and the English Channel, and this drawback vanishes.

Boating and Bathing are of the safest and best. Public Gardens are dotted here and there, whilst the many places of historical interest, and the diversified scenery of land and seascape—some of these unique—are easily accessible by numerous steamers and coaches.

The prevailing westerly winds and the sheltered position of the Town give to the Winter a mildness and salubrity which it is to be regretted are not more widely known.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Occupation of Inhabitants.—To a considerable extent Weymouth may be considered, like other Health Resorts, a residential place.

Very few of the inhabitants are solely dependent upon the letting of the houses in the summer, though a considerable number find this occupation a very desirable, and frequently essential, addition to their incomes. The working of artizan class are chiefly engaged as skilled mechanics at Whitehead's Torpedo Works, or in the various building trades, with a small number in engineering and shipbuilding. The Harbour with its shipping, boating and fishing also finds employment for a small number. It cannot be said that any particular occupation has an influence on the Public Health.

Housing Accommodation.—Rodwell district and Melcombe Regis North district may be considered to all intents, and with but few exceptions, residential, and the houses of modern type or recently modernized.

The centre of the town—Melcombe Regis South and that portion of Weymouth abutting on the harbour—are old. The streets are narrow, yard spaces diminutive, and the area generally congested. It is in these portions of the Borough that we have many of the older courts and alleys and some back-to-back houses, but as these portions have been receiving particular attention from the Sanitary Authority during the last seven years, they now to a large extent compare favourably as regards cleanliness of surroundings, paved yards and streets, and sanitary conditions, with other more open and modern streets. Only a proper housing plan, with demolition and removal of many streets, and re-building, can ever bring many of these portions into an approach to the garden city of the future.

The Westham portion of the Borough is of much more modern construction and contains many rows of houses erected for and occupied by the working classes.

The population density in 1910 for the whole Borough is 14·2 per acre. Excluding the area covered by water it is 17·6 per acre. I have been unable to get sufficient accurate information as to the area of the different wards actually built over, to give the density of the population of these separately, but the following table shows the number of inhabited houses in each ward at the Census of 1901, and as stated to me by the Rate Collectors for 1910, and the number of persons per house as at 1901 Census.

Wards.	Houses inhabited Census 1901	Houses inhabited 1910 (stated)	Population Census 1901	Population estimated 1910	Persons per house Census 1901
Melcombe Regis (North)	1045	1399	5187	6939	4·96
Melcombe Regis (South)	903	1108	4625	5673	5·12
Weymouth ..	1211	1555	6387	8192	5·27
Wyke Regis ..	722	822	3544	4144	5·04
	3881	4884	19843	24948	

Under the Building Bye-Laws no certificate as to a house being fit or ready for occupation is required, and the exact number built and occupied in a year can only be ascertained from our Record of testing and inspecting the sanitary system. The number finished and occupied during 1910 is 22. Of this number only seven can even remotely be classed as intended for the working classes, and the rentals of these are stated to be over 7/- per week inclusive of rates.

The subject of the Housing of the Working Classes has this year been brought prominently forward, in consequence of a letter from the Local Government Board calling the attention of the Council to the paragraphs in former Reports, mentioning the lack of suitable accommodation for working men and their families earning less than 30/- per week, and asking the Council what steps they were taking to remedy this need, and suggesting action under Part III. of the Housing Acts. The Council remitted this letter to the Streets and Works Committee, who desired me to make a Special Report on the subject, which I here give *in extenso*.

TO THE STREETS AND WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH OF WEYMOUTH AND MELCOMBE REGIS.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you a special Report, as requested, upon the letter of the L.G.B. as dealing with the lack of suitable accommodation for the Working Classes.

This matter is not one that my opinion upon is the sole one. It has been mentioned by the Ministers of Religion at various times, and a joint meeting of Members of the Board of Guardians, and of this Council, was held at the Guildhall, some three years ago, to enquire into the subject and its influences on the moral welfare of the people.

In his Report for 1902, my predecessor, Dr. Jones, dealing with his first period of five months, only, writes—"There are undoubtedly many cases of habitual overcrowding, but this is largely an economic question, there are few houses in the town where rent is below 5/6 per week, and the people who take them often sub-let some of their rooms in order to make up the rent, which naturally leads to overcrowding."

In his Report for 1903, he dealt with the conditions generally of the houses for the Working Classes, and evidenced particular streets and courts. It cannot be considered that the Report is a pleasing one for a Sanitary Authority to peruse.

In the 1904 Report he deals with the conditions previously reported upon, and in one paragraph states—"There are in this town very few self-contained tenement dwellings where a separate family life is possible for those who live in them. Such tenement houses as exist are ordinary dwelling houses originally intended for single families, containing six or seven rooms, let by the owners or sub-let by the tenants in sets to a number of families." Details follow as to a census of certain localities taken in December of that year—a most favourable time—and these are instructing.

In the 1905 Report overcrowding of tenement dwellings is mentioned, and in 1906 lack of suitable accommodation and overcrowding is commented upon, also the need of providing suitable tenement dwellings, and Glasgow Municipality is instanced. In 1907 Report overcrowding in the houses of the artizan class, from the fact of high rentals compelling two or more families to share one house, is mentioned. In the 1908 and 1909 Reports the whole subject is again entered into, and it is upon these Reports that the L.G.B. are asking what is being done to remedy the obvious need.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

During each of the years I have been in office I have brought before my Committee, and urged also in my Annual Report, the crying need for regulating by bye-laws these houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family. This would tend to restrict overcrowding, but is not the best remedy, that being the erection of suitable houses of three or four rooms which could be let at a moderate rental, and it is only the flat system which could be carried out in this district.

At the census of 1901 the total number of inhabited houses is officially given as:—

Inhabited Houses	3881
Uninhabited, in occupation	143
Ditto, not in occupation	200
Total	<u>4224</u>

Tenements (a tenement being distinguished as being a house occupied by more than one family, and some tenements may and do have many families) at the same date are given as 4384, that is a greater number than the total number of dwelling-houses in the town. Of this number 916 were possessed of less than five rooms. When you take into account that at the present day the number of houses rated at £10 and under is 1053 it gives you some idea of the congestion that must exist and that separate family life for the working man in a self-contained house is a rare luxury.

At the present time the number of inhabited houses is stated to be 4884 in actual occupation. This, at the census average per house of 5.1 gives an estimated population of roughly 25000, an increase since 1901 of 5000 people. To house this increase, keeping to the same average, 1000 houses should have been built, but according to the returns the total number of houses inhabited is only 800 more, and this is excluding all unoccupied and leaving out of account those which have been closed as unfit for human habitation voluntarily or compulsorily.*

During the period (five years) that I have been your M.O.H. I am not aware of one single new house being erected, of the type suitable for the ordinary artisan, to give him a separate family life.

It is not within the sphere of my ordinary duties to enter into the causes of the high rentals prevalent in the district, but it is within my sphere to point out the duty of the Local Authority to take means—such as may lie within their power—to ameliorate these conditions.

The Housing Acts, 1890 to 1903 gave powers to Local Authorities to provide suitable houses for artisans, but the procedure was cumbersome, and the Acts were practically a dead letter, as compulsory powers were absent.

The Housing Act, 1909, removes nearly all the disabilities of the former Acts, and in the words of the President of the L.G.B. "The object of the Bill is to provide a domestic condition for the people in which their physical health, their morals, their character and their whole social condition can be improved. On its Housing side the Bill seeks to abolish, reconstruct and prevent the slum. It hopes to render model dwellings similar to those that are so prevalent in Germany less frequent in the future than now. It seeks to improve the health of the people by raising the character of the house and the home, and by extended inspection, supervision, direction and guidance of central control to help Local Authorities to do more than they do now."

I have approached personally builders erecting what is here termed houses for the Working Classes, and pointed out to them the desirability for building a different type to let at a less rental, but in vain. Private enterprise having failed to do so, only the Local Authority is left. In my Report for 1908 occurs: "It is a matter of serious consideration whether the Municipality, being themselves holders of land and buildings, should move in this direction or as formerly leave it to private enterprise."

Under Sect. 4 of the Housing Acts, the Public Health Loan Commissioners are, subject to the approval and regulations of the L.G.B. allowed to make grants to certain Building Societies.

Loans to a Local Authority for the purposes of the Act, are to be made at the minimum rate, and the loan may be for a period not exceeding 80 years.

The maximum wage of the skilled artisan, excluding some few in specialized engineering, does not exceed 30/- per week, but the great majority of the working classes who are not skilled artisans, earn from 18/- to 22/- per week. The Corporation employees may be taken as the best paid type with constant work, and the above is representative.

Excluding the courts and back-to-back houses—none of which can be considered as of a satisfactory type—few houses exist at less than 6/- per week rent, including rates, and to a married man with a family earning 20/- or so per week, this rent is prohibitive, and they are forced either to sub-let, or be sub-tenants. Such houses as are let at 5/- per week are eagerly sought after, and the few that exist are bespoken long ahead of any vacancy.

I have not yet heard of the existence of key money with regard to these houses, but if the present congestion continues, this added evil may possibly come into existence.

In June last, I reported to the Sanitary Committee an insanitary area, as existing at South Parade, and have since been waiting a joint inspection by that Committee and yours of this site, with a view to demolition, under the Housing Acts. Some portion of this site is the property of the Corporation, and it might be possible to make an experiment, with the type of house as recommended, on this spot. West Plain has been demolished, and this site could also be considered for the erection of a proper tenement house.

Yours faithfully,

W. B. BARCLAY, M.O.H.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910 Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Since the above Report was written, plans for six small tenements have been deposited, and received the sanction of the Council. These tenements, as an experiment, are being erected in accordance to my expressed desires, and within the last few days I have learned of the possibility, if suitable land can be procured, of the erection of a large number of such. From reports received from numerous sources I have no doubt that such houses will be eagerly sought after, and the owners be able to pick and choose their tenants.

Cases of overcrowding are brought to our notice. These have been abated on informal notice, but it is found that in all cases it is simply a transference to some other house, and another family, and the cycle proceeds indefinitely. Without Bye-laws dealing with houses let to more than one family, it is practically impossible to deal with such cases, under the Public Health Act, 1875.

With Bye-laws, some regulation as to numbers occupying one house or rooms in a house is possible, but the root of the evil is not reached. Such Bye-laws however, if sanctioned, would require an increase in the staff of the Department, if they are to be carried out impartially. It is useless to pass them if the means of inspection and supervision are denied us.

When the Fleet are in the harbour, and large numbers of liberty men sleep on shore, the evil of overcrowding is much accentuated. Though Homes are provided, and a large number of houses outside are on the Register of the Homes, the number of beds available are, only too frequently, greatly insufficient for the numbers, with a consequence that overcrowding of a type demoralizing to all concerned, recurs night after night.

There can be no question of the urgent necessity of Bye-laws, requiring the registration of all such houses, and the limiting of the numbers occupying one room, and the separation of the sexes.

An important factor in connection with the density of the population, and having a great influence on the health of the community and of inestimable advantage thereto, is the fact of the Borough being practically surrounded and intersected by the sea and tidal waters. The action of the Corporation also in, at every available opportunity, acquiring open spaces for Public Gardens and Parks, and thus adding to the lungs and breathing spaces of the town, cannot be too highly commended.

Housing Acts 1890 to 1909.—Some parts of the Borough being old and consisting of streets, courts and alleys erected early in the Nineteenth Century, much attention has to be given to action under the above, more so than would be necessary in towns of a similar size not dating back to such early years.

The accompanying list gives an account of action taken. The number of houses where notices have been served and defects not remedied seems to be large, but this is accounted for by the fact that the Regulations, issued under the Housing Act, 1909, were not published until September, consequently most of the work has only come into hand during the latter months of the year.

A Representation, under Sec. 4 of the principal Act as amended by Sec. 22 of the 1909 Act, has been made as regards South Parade being an insanitary area. The Horsford Street area has not further moved since my last report. The houses though closed not yet being demolished, through the absence in the colonies of one of the owners.

West Plain area has been demolished.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

Name of Street.	No. of Notices served.	No. of Houses remedied.	No. of Houses not remedied.	Sect. 15	Sect. 17
1, 2 and 3, Alexandra Road ..	3	..	3	3	..
31, 33, 35 and 37, Chickereil Road	1	..	4	4	..
39, 41, 43, 45, ..	1	..	4	4	..
47, 42, 51, 53, ..	1	..	4	4	..
15, High Street ..	1	..	1	..	1*
50, High Street ..	1	..	1	..	1*
48, High Street ..	1	..	1	..	1*
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Ilton Terrace ..	1	5	..	5	..
6, 7, 8, Ilton Terrace ..	1	3	..	3	..
17, Lennox Street ..	1	..	1	..	1
1, Royal Yard ..	1	..	1	..	1*
3, Royal Yard ..	1	..	1	..	1*
4, Royal Yard ..	1	..	1	..	1*
1, 2, 3, 4, 7, South Parade Court	} Insanitary Area. Part I. Sec. 4, Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	}	}	}	}
Flora Cottage, ..					
Elma Cottage, ..					
And dilapidated and unoccupied houses ..					
66, St. Thomas Street ..	1	..	1	..	1*
16, Walpole Street ..	1	..	1	..	1*
Totals ..	17	8	24	23	9

* Closing orders in operation.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

House Sanitation.—"The health of the town is life and death to its prosperity," and an essential to health consists in having the Sanitary details of each house brought into conformity with modern standards, and thereafter kept at that. Drainage begotten diseases, though steadily decreasing are still much too common. The education of the public in the matter of Domestic Sanitation proceeds rapidly, and during the past year, there was an almost feverish activity on behalf of the public to have their house drains and all sanitary arrangements brought up to the high standard that is now exacted in the Borough. In no previous year has there been such a record of work accomplished, and it is gratifying to us to find that the majority of work carried out was at the request of owners and tenants, and not forced upon them by the Health Department.

It may also be stated that practical unanimity exists between this Department and Architects and Builders, and that friction is and has been absent.

One attempt was made by certain retrogressives, through gross misrepresentation of facts, to bring back the easy going and futile methods of drain testing, etc., of the past, but met with no encouragement from the Sanitary Committee.

At the present rate of progress we are within measurable reach of having the town in the position of being *sans peur sans reproche*, as regards house drainage.

In all cases of re-draining of houses we recommend—on account of the soil—iron pipes, and consider that there is great economy in their use, and during the past year, iron pipes have been the rule, rather than the exception as previously. The inspection and testing of drains, apart from public sewers, is vested in the Health Department.

Water Supply.—The Borough is supplied throughout by a private Company, which also supplies various villages in the adjacent Rural District. The water springs from the upper green sand, below the chalk at the foot of a hill beyond the village of Sutton Poyntz, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town.

A large number of springs issue from the side of the hill and run directly into a small reservoir or collecting pond, partly concrete and partly soil. It is not stored here but flows at once through a strainer to the pumping station.

The whole source is surrounded for about four acres by an unclimbable iron fence, and is uninhabited for a considerable distance round. The height of the collecting reservoir and springs is about 30 feet above sea-level. The water flows by gravitation to the pumping station 40 feet below, where partly by turbine engines and partly by steam it is pumped to the covered reservoirs at Preston 160 feet higher, and at Wyke 185 feet higher. From the Preston reservoir it flows by gravitation to a covered reservoir at Rodwell at 142 feet, and these—Preston and Rodwell—supply the town of Weymouth, the Wyke reservoir serving the higher parts of the town. The supply is on the constant system, and the quantity is sufficient, the present consumption averaging $25\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head per day. It is of excellent quality, though rather hard. The accompanying analysis has been given me by the Company as having been made by their Analyst:—

(Copy).

WESTERN COUNTIES LABORATORY,
SOUTHEY HOUSE, COLLEGE GREEN,
BRISTOL,

February 5th, 1909

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEYMOUTH WATERWORKS COMPANY.

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I beg to submit the results of analysis of a sample of the Weymouth water received from your Engineer on the 30th ult. as follows:—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

					Grains per gallon.
Saline Ammonia	..	..	..	..	none.
Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	..	..	·0010
Nitrogen as Nitrate	..	..	..	..	·28
Nitrites	..	..	..	..	absent
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	..	..	..	..	none
Chlorine as Chloride	..	..	..	..	1·90
Total dissolved solids	..	..	..	..	21·0
Earthy Carbonates	..	..	..	..	12·5
Earthy Salts other than Carbonates	..	..	..	..	1·0
Hardness	..	..	..	..	14·5
Poisonous metals	..	..	..	..	absent
Sediment	..	..	..	..	a little mineral and vegetable debris

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS.

Total Organisms on Gelatine plate	..	..	..	52 per C.C.
" " liquefying	..	..	..	5 C.C.
Bacillus Coli	..	..	..	none in 50 C.C.
Streptococci	..	..	..	none in 10 C.C.
B. Enteritidis Sporogenes	..	..	..	none in 250 C.C.

These results are in every way most satisfactory.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. WALLIS STODDART.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885-6.—The Regulations and Bye-laws formed under these, have, as in former years, been a matter of constant attention, believing as we do that a milk supply pure and uncontaminated, at its source, and in its distribution and storage, is one of the greatest means towards the reduction of disease.

The severe measures of former years have not been necessary, as the standard then set has been, with perhaps one or at most two exceptions, faithfully observed. There is an increasing inclination with the Cowkeepers to seek our assistance and advice, instead of as formerly, having it thrust upon them.

It is only by constant watchfulness and supervision that this standard is kept up. It has not been necessary to report anyone to the Committee for prosecution.

The larger Dairy-men—as apart from Cowkeepers—are all that can be desired, and render us every assistance.

As in former years, the trouble is always with the small purveyor of milk, whose milk sales are only a small adjunct to other business. We find it difficult to impress them with the need for care and cleanliness, and a prosecution is necessary to bring some of them to a better knowledge. This has been delayed year by year under the hope that promised legislation would give us powers that would close these places permanently.

There is still a general lack in the matter of *scalding* utensils, and with nearly all the Cowkeepers, in the rapid cooling of the milk.

One of the greatest drawbacks to our efforts is the fact that some two-thirds of the whole milk supply of the Borough is brought in by cowkeepers resident outside the Borough (many of them being their own purveyors), and over whom we can exercise no control, excepting during the period they are actually within the district.

The difference in the standard exacted within the Borough and without is a source of complaint.

Number of Dairies on Register	..	..	..	..	..	27
Number of Cowsheds on Register	..	..	..	..	..	7
Number of Cows in the Borough	..	..	..	..	..	102
Number of Purveyors	{	within the Borough	41	{	61
on Registers		from without the Borough	..	..	20	
Notices issued to abate nuisance, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	5
Number Registered in 1910	..	..	..	..	..	0
Number removed from Register in 1910	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of Ice Cream Vendors on Register in 1910	..	..	..	..	..	4

Ice Cream Makers are treated as Dairies, and undergo the same inspection. During the busy summer months, the inspections are frequent. The Stalls and Utensils used by the open-air retailers are kept under daily supervision. One maker is a perennial source of trouble as regards cleanliness; he is an alien.

Slaughter-houses.—There are six slaughter-houses on the Register and these are carried on in a satisfactory manner.

There is a tendency in one or two cases to allow persons who have not applied for a licence to occupy and slaughter, and in one case where a seizure was made to repudiate liability for the use made by the outsider. As this case is *sub judice* I cannot enter further into it.

There are eight places used in the preparation of food, such as sausages, all are kept in a cleanly state and free from any emanations which might contaminate food.

Within the Borough all slaughter-houses are licensed for one year. Surprise visits are paid as frequently as possible during the hours of slaughtering, for the purpose of inspecting meat for disease, but it is manifestly impossible for inspection to be systematic.

The chances of unsound food being smuggled from them into the district are great, it is within our knowledge that it has been done, and though some few cases have been detected, in others the information has reached us too late, the diseased animal being rushed to slaughter, cut up and removed within a few hours.

During this year mutual action between the neighbouring authorities has been arranged, and the chances of the “slink” butcher escaping are reduced.

There is only one way to regulate the meat traffic, and that is for the Local Authority to erect a Public Abattoir, and to insist that all animals to be slaughtered for sale, and all carcasses of animals slaughtered elsewhere and intended to be sold as food for man, should be brought to the public slaughter-house for inspection, in a place set apart for the purpose.

The subject of a Public Abattoir has been persistently brought forward, year by year, but has always been shelved. It cannot be allowed to much longer lie in abeyance, as the powers above are moving in the matter of meat inspection.

It is unfair to the honest butcher who slaughters nothing but the best of meat that he has to compete with the dishonest man who purchases manifestly inferior and diseased animals.

I have had the opportunity of visiting several of the Continental public slaughter-houses, and for administrative purposes, simplification of inspection, cleansing, &c., they are far ahead of our present method in this Borough.

Even in the matter of seizure of tuberculous carcasses the loss to the owner is not total, as means are taken of sterilizing the meat and issuing it at a reduced price to the poor inhabitants of the district.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Food and Drugs Act.—The administration of this Act is in the Police Department and is dealt with by them, under the Watch Committee.

The undernoted return is through the courtesy of the Chief Constable.

Chief Constable's Office, Weymouth Police,
January 5th, 1911.

No.	Name.	Result.	Proceedings.
10	Milk ..	{ 9 genuine 1 adulterated	Vendor fined 5/- and costs.
18	Butter ..	genuine	
2	Cheese ..	"	
2	Lard ..	"	
2	Margarine	"	
4	Rice ..	"	
1	Sago ..	"	
1	Tapioca ..	"	
2	Mustard ..	{ 1 genuine 1 adulterated	1 sample mustard found to contain farinaceous matter, 8%. No proceedings taken.
1	Pepper ..	genuine	

FRANK EACOCK, *Chief Constable,*
Inspector under Food and Drugs Act.

Inspection of perishable foods is carried out as far as possible by the Health Department but is not systematic. During the summer months, considerable attention is paid to fruit, but little is done, with the staff at our command, to inspect all meat slaughtered or brought into the Borough. As stated under Slaughter-houses, an attempt is being made by combined action, to stop what is termed the 'slink' meat business, and our action has so far been successful as to compel one well known dealer in this kind of food, to move to fresh pastures.

The following table gives the seizures and approximate quantities of unsound food :—

June	24th	—Whole carcase of a cow, tuberculosis and otherwise diseased, <i>vide note.</i>
July	7th	—175lbs. strawberries and 10lbs. black currants, owner prosecuted, fined £1 and costs.
"	8th	—5lbs. strawberries.
"	"	"
"	"	"
"	"	"
"	11th	—8 baskets of plums, 80lbs.
"	14th	—155lbs. strawberries, owner summoned but disappeared.
"	"	—5lbs. strawberries and white currants.
Aug.	3rd	—9lbs. plums.
Oct.	11th	—22 boxes of fish.
Dec.	19th	—2 pig plucks, tuberculosis.
"	29th	—1 Ewe, tuberculosis and pleuro pneumonia.
"	30th	— " " " "

The cases of the animals seized for tuberculosis require some explanation. In the first, on June 24th, we received information of an animal being in a slaughter-house, that seemed doubtful. Before steps could be taken it was removed during the night to the Rural District. The Sanitary Inspector, with the Rural Inspector and a Veterinary Surgeon, followed and found the animal, and with the Officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, considered, on the Veterinary Surgeon's Certificate, the beast ought to be slaughtered. This was done, and by arrangement, when the carcase was brought to the Borough Boundary, was seized and destroyed. The owner was prosecuted for Cruelty to Animals and fined.

On December 29th, on information received, I visited a private yard, in company with the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inspector and the Sanitary Inspector, and found a live ewe, obviously in an advanced state of disease. While arranging for a watch to be kept, that a legal seizure might be made, the animal was removed to a slaughter-house in the Borough. We followed, but suspicion having been roused the animal was, before our arrival, removed to the Rural District. Immediately the Rural Authorities were notified, and the following day the sheep was brought back to the slaughter-house, seized, and on the Veterinary Surgeon's certificate, slaughtered, and the carcase destroyed.

A second ewe was seen, amongst many other sheep, on our first visit to the slaughter-house, belonging to the same owner, and on inspection by the Veterinary Surgeon it was ordered to be slaughtered, the carcase was seized and destroyed. Both animals were badly emaciated, suffering from pleuro-pneumonia and advanced tuberculosis. They had been bought in the open market for 10/-, 3/- and 7/- respectively. Their condition was so manifest that I fail to understand the market authorities at Dorchester allowing them to enter. Prosecution will follow in these cases.

Offensive Trades.—There are twelve places classed under the Public Health Act, 1875, as such, though others exist, which under the Amendment Act, 1907, we are asking for powers to include. Amongst these are the fried fish shops.

Bye-laws for the regulation of these have been prepared and submitted to the Local Government Board, and are awaiting their approval. It is sought that fried fish shops be included amongst offensive trades, also marine stores, so that notice may be given under Sec. 112, P. H. Act, 1875, of their intention to establish such a business or trade, and the Local Authority have the power prior to the establishment, of giving their sanction, as to site, building, and appliances.

Complaints have been made at various times as to the establishment of fried fish shops, &c., in situations and buildings entirely unsuitable, and it is a hardship on the owner of such to be turned out practically after the expenditure of his capital. One statutory notice had to be served upon an offensive trade establishment in consequence of recurring nuisance; otherwise they are well conducted. The same applies to the fried fish shops: our only difficulty with these is the regulating of the storage of empty fish tubs, which in the summer months become an abominable nuisance in little over 24 hours.

Common Lodging Houses.—Two of these are on the Register, a decrease of one since last year. An attempt was made to re-establish a closed one, without the knowledge of the Local Authority, but occupation ceased on notice being given.

One is not very satisfactorily conducted, and a careful consideration will have to be given, if the carelessness continues, as to the advisability of continuing the licence under the present management.

There is an undoubted lack of Common Lodging Houses in the town for males, and none exist for females, or married couples, except such as are illegitimately conducted, of some of which we are aware, but find legal proof difficult to secure.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The sewage of the town is discharged into the sea, at a point 1,380 feet east of the Nothe Point, the extreme point of land of the Borough, and 24 feet below the low water level of ordinary spring tides. It is pumped thither, as much as possible, during ebb tide, through an outfall sewer of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles length, from the large collecting tank at Westham. This tank is of the capacity of about 300,000 gallons, and is supplied by two intercepting sewers, one from Weymouth, and one from Melcombe Regis, into which all the street sewers converge. During recent years, several relief surface water drains have been constructed, which convey storm water direct into the harbour, etc. These have considerably relieved the pumping station. In times of storm, however, in spite of these relief drains, the pumping station is unable to compete with the large volume of diluted sewage entering the tank, and it is necessary to divert that portion coming down the eastern bank of the Backwater, into the Backwater below the weir, by means of an old sewer, and to pump from the tank direct into the Backwater, below the weir, at all states of the tide.

Apart from the general system there are two local sewers receiving the drainage of about 100 houses in the Belfield, Buxton, and Old Castle Districts, which discharge their contents untreated into Portland Roads.

A scheme is in existence for dealing with these, and conveying their contents to the general system, but as it is dependent upon the construction of docks and railway by the Great Western Railway Company, which have received Parliamentary sanction, the Corporation have to await their pleasure for the completion of the scheme.

Regular flushing of sewers is carried out during the summer months by means of a specially fitted cart, but this is a very inefficient method and barely worth the expense. The provision of large automatic flushing tanks at the head of each sewer would be of the utmost benefit to the public health generally. The sewers are ventilated by 66 upcast ventilating shafts and 13 Webb's lights.

The Park district has been a perennial source of trouble, occupying as it does an area of about 20 acres closely built over, and forming a basin, the surface levels of many parts of which are below high water of ordinary spring tides. In times of storm, portions of this district become flooded, the surface water entering the sewers, and becoming dammed back by the general congestion of the sewers at such times.

Some years ago the Council provided a special pumping plant for the purpose of relieving this district in such times of storm, the outlet pipe of which discharged into the Backwater at the foot of King Street until recently, when, owing to railway alterations it was carried out through the new embankment, and discharges on the N. side of this, near Melcombe Regis Station.

This pumping plant, though of some benefit, has failed to entirely prevent flooding in times of excessive rainfall, and a scheme is being carried out by the Consulting Borough Engineer with a view of cutting off entirely the storm or surface water, coming from the higher parts surrounding this district, and conveying it direct into the sea or backwater, and by increasing the outlet from the present pumping station.

By the same scheme it is proposed to provide for the discharge of storm waters from the sewage tanks, into the backwater, by means of an overflow main.

The relaying of the old sewer, receiving the storm overflow from the Radipole section, is included in this scheme, and a commencement has been made with this.

Defects having been found in the Alexandra Road sewer, this was re-laid during the year, also a small section left undone on a former occasion of the sewer on the South side of Wesley Street.

Two other defective sewers on the Weymouth side are scheduled for early renewal, and one in the Park District in Melcombe Regis.

Excrement Disposal.—This may be stated to be entirely the water carriage system, with one or two exceptions. One or two houses on the extreme borders of the Borough, where sewers or levels are not available, have earth closets.

So far as is known, all the house drains in the Borough, with two exceptions, are connected with the sewers. This statement we repeat each year, and each year have to add, that some drains have been detected discharging direct into the Harbour or Backwater, and have been cut off.

The defect with the water carriage system is the lack of flushing apparatus for so many of the w.c.'s. This is, however, being steadily and perseveringly remedied, and as will be seen in the general report of sanitary work, some 214 houses have had flushing cisterns added. Wherever our attention is drawn to this matter, notice is served, and a supply is insisted upon. Recent Acts have strengthened the powers in this direction, though previously sufficient.

From a return received we find that there are in Weymouth 1213 houses, and in Melcombe Regis 1730 houses, which have one or more water closets fitted with a flushing cistern and water supply. The number of assessments, excluding land, is respectively 2507 and 2773, this leaves some 2237 closets that are hand flushed. To some extent this is due to the charge made by the Water Coy. for each flushing cistern. This is mistaken policy on their part, as much more water is used and wasted by means of hand flushing than by means of a cistern.

Pollution of Rivers and Streams.

The Backwater.—The river Wey entering the Backwater at its Northern end, is to some extent polluted by receiving some portions of the sewage of the villages of Radipole, Nottingham, Broadway and Upwey. Within the Borough the Wey is tidal and may be considered as entirely included within the Backwater.

A considerable portion of the Western bank of the lake is within the Rural District, and with the exception of a few farms, the land for some distance inland is uninhabited.

Two streams running throughout their course in the Rural District join the backwater on the western side.

Within the confines of the town a masonry dam or weir with lock gates extends across, and at ebb tide holds a certain amount of tidal waters up, keeping the flats and shallows covered with water.

The rise of tidal water over this dam at high water ordinary spring tide, is 3 feet 5 inches. At high water ordinary neap tide it is two inches. The average rise of water in the harbour at ordinary Spring tides is about 6 feet 6 inches.

At all tides there is an influx of water over the weir into the backwater.

In connection with railway improvements, as mentioned in the 1908 report, an embankment 735 feet long on the Eastern side, and 285 feet on the Western side, connected by a steel bridge, consisting of five spans of 108 feet each, has been constructed across the lake, and entirely altered its topography.

Formerly during the ebb tide, a current existed extending across the entire breadth of the lake, this no longer exists on the eastern side. The embankment has deflected it towards the middle of the lake, and there now exists a bay of quite shallow water, extending from the railway embankment Northward.

At neap tides the water in this portion is to all intents and purposes unchanged, and it is unfortunate that it is into this part that the storm overflows from a great portion of Melcombe Regis discharge.

As in other seaside towns where large sheets of comparatively shallow and semi-brackish water exist, a type of seaweed "*Ulva Latissima*" (locally termed "weed") flourishes luxuriously during the summer months, and, under certain conditions, becomes a serious nuisance.

During the past year members of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal have paid several visits of inspection, and many samples of the water and "weed" have been taken for analytical and bacteriological examination. Until their report is issued the exact figures are not available, but I may state here that the water is, to a considerable extent, sewage contaminated, also that the *Ulva* is in fact a polluted water type.

In my report of last year I quoted extensively from the previous report of the Commission, and this I need not recapitulate, as the further information obtained has proved the probabilities then stated.

It has been a serious problem with the Sanitary Authority for many years, as to the proper measures to adopt to prevent the noxious effluvia which undoubtedly occurs from the decaying *Ulva*. Many and varied have been the methods tried, but the only one that has had any measure of success has been an expensive one, viz., the continued raking out and removal of the weed for some five or six months of the year. This is a remedy but not a cure, and in the light of the scientific knowledge now presented to us by the highest authorities in the land, we must not wilfully shut our eyes and ignore the fact that in some measure we are ourselves the cause of the recurring nuisance.

Once and for all, as long as sewage matter—under whatever name it is attempted to gloss over the fact—is poured into this sheet of water, this weed will grow and will prove a continued expense and a more difficult nuisance to contend with.

I have, at every opportunity given me, protested against the conveyance of storm water overflows into this part of the lake, and even now, when it is nearly an accomplished fact, once more offer a grave warning against this most retrograde step.

Until our own hands are clean we cannot approach the neighbouring Authority to ask them to remedy their share in the pollution.

During the year a surface-water drain—in Alexandra Road—discharging into the Backwater, was found to have had many house drains connected to it. This has been remedied. Below the weir the storm overflow from the Radipole sewer enters the harbour. I have strongly urged the need of carrying this farther out into the current.

A stream, originating in the Rural District, but passing for a portion of its course within the Borough and entering the harbour, was found to receive some sewage matter on the confines of the Borough. The attention of the neighbouring Authority has been called to this and steps are being taken to have it remedied.

Every possible source of contamination of the Backwater and Harbour is being investigated, and every possible step is taken by the Health Department to have such, when found, removed.

During the year approximately 350 tons of *Ulva* were removed at a cost of £68. There is a difficulty at times in finding a place to deposit the weed, a difficulty that should not occur if its manurial value was properly known.

Prof. Letts, when on a visit of inspection here, made the statement, with all the weight of his authority to support it, that *Ulva* might be compared to the rat in the animal kingdom, for the avidity with which it seizes and lives upon sewage matter, but like that animal also when it died it created an abominable nuisance; also that it is exceedingly rich in ammonia, and as a top dressing for grass is without an equal. In some places farmers have learnt its value, and eagerly cart it away.

I have no doubt that any farmers desirous of utilizing a cheap fertilizer may have it for the carting away.

Bye-laws.—Bye-laws dealing with new buildings, slaughter-houses, dairies and cowsheds, common lodging-houses, nuisances and regulations as to persons suffering from dangerous infectious disease and as to van dwellers, are in force within the Borough. Some of these are now to a certain extent obsolete, and require amendment or alteration to bring them into conformity with more recent legislation and methods.

Bye-laws as to offensive trades have been sent to the Local Government Board for their approval.

Bye-laws as to houses let in lodgings, or houses occupied by more than one family, are urgently required.

In the Annual Reports of my predecessor and myself, for the years 1902 to 1909 inclusive, complaint was made that the Building Bye-laws were not observed, and the Local Government Board recently called the attention of the Town Council to these Reports. It is therefore most pleasing to be able this year to report that this neglect has ceased, and that unanimity of action and mutual support now mark the two departments under whose cognizance the Building Bye-laws come, and that observance is now enforced.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.—The collection of house refuse is done by the Corporation direct, and is under the Borough Surveyor's Department.

The scavenging is so arranged that every house shall be visited three times a week, and the two main business streets daily. The refuse so collected is conveyed in covered carts to Westham, where it is destroyed in one of Meldrum's destructors. The steam generated by the destructor is used for working the engines which pump the sewage of the Borough to the outfall in the bay.

In accordance with the bye-laws every house is to be provided with a "suitable covered receptacle" for house refuse. In the past this bye-law has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance, few of the heterogeneous articles used as a receptacle being either suitable or covered, with a consequent unsightly and unsavoury display, and a littered street or path daily in evidence.

In the light of recent researches, it is now beyond doubt that this condition is a very strong factor in the dissemination of disease of an infectious nature, from encouraging the presence and breeding of the ordinary house fly.

Flies breed in almost any decaying animal or vegetable matter, and when the life history of the fly is known, with its enormous capability of multiplying its species; the need of reducing—more especially in the immediate neighbourhood of dwellings—its breeding and feeding places, has become one of urgent necessity.

The Local Government Board have recently issued a publication on this matter summarising the investigations carried out at their instance. "They have established beyond a doubt that flies transmit the contagion of typhoid fever, diarrhoea, cholera, diphtheria, plague, ophthalmia and several other diseases from infected matter to human beings and to their milk and food with much facility."

Much may be done by the Sanitary Authority to bring about the destruction of the house fly, by the removal of organic matter and decaying refuse, and by insisting that proper receptacles, suitably covered, be provided for such, for the short period in which household refuse is retained near a house, but the co-operation of the householder is necessary.

During the past two years, the Health Department have advised that each Sanitary bin be dusted with disinfectant powder by the scavengers when emptied, and the householder—more especially in the summer—should see that this is done, as it tends somewhat to prevent flies approaching; but the greatest essential is cleanliness, the not allowing refuse to accumulate, nor to lie about uncovered, and this lies in the hands of the householder.

After nearly 40 years of compulsory Education and of the administration of the Public Health Act of 1875, surely the people should now realize that dirt and filth are the most prolific breeders of disease, and that each household has practically the keeping of its health within its own power. Until this is realized progress will be slow and difficult.

General Sanitary Work.—The amount of work done under this heading cannot be adequately shewn by the table appended, as generally speaking only visits paid to places are enumerated. The amount of time given by all the officers to interviews, telephone messages, etc., regarding work to be done, or being carried out, the correspondence regarding the same, and the ever readiness of the staff to render technical advice to builders and jobbers with regard to their work form no small item in each day's work. The general harmony that exists between the staff and those engaged in carrying out sanitary alterations and repairs, is mentioned elsewhere, and is a matter for congratulation.

Infectious Diseases.—All adoptive Acts in connection with the existence of Infectious Disease, have been adopted by the Council, and those in the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, came into force on January 1st, 1910. These latter give increased powers to deal with infected persons carrying on occupations with dairymen within and without the district, with schools, with library books, and with cleansing and disinfection, etc., though some of the provisions were previously included in the Weymouth Improvement Act.

From the 1st of January, 1909, pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption became compulsorily notifiable as an infectious disease so far as cases coming under the Poor Law were concerned.

The district Medical Officers and the Medical Officer of the Workhouse, have to notify cases occurring in their practice as such, and the Master of the Workhouse and the Relieving Officer have to notify changes of address in consumptive persons receiving Poor Law relief.

Voluntary notification of pulmonary tuberculosis has been in operation since 1905, but is practically a dead letter, only one case being notified.

Apart from legal notifications of the notifiable diseases, first information of the non-notifiable diseases, and in some cases suspicions as to notifiable diseases, is received from the Elementary School Teachers.

The School Medical Officer and the Medical Officer of Health being the same person, and the School Attendance Officer being to a great extent under the direction of the School Medical Officer, together with the cordial relations, in fact active partnership that exists between the Medical Authority and the School Teachers, has brought about a very effective and prompt method of detection of the non-notifiable diseases.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Notifications.—The year has been on the whole a very favourable one. The number of notifications actually made being 34, excluding tuberculosis. This represents a sickness rate, as regards diseases notifiable of 1·5 per 1000 of the population. The subjoined table gives the numbers and rates for the previous ten years:—

		Numbers.	Rate.			Numbers.	Rate.
1900	..	—	5·9	1905	..	31	1·4
1901	..	—	14·0	1906	..	90	3·7
1902	..	179	8·8	1907	..	68	2·7
1903	..	28	1·3	1908	..	157	6·6
1904	..	8	0·3	1909	..	125	5·4

In each year, so careful are the medical profession that the good report of the town should not be interfered with, a certain number of cases are notified where there is reasonable cause to suspect the disease is an infectious case. In practically all these I am asked to consult and in some it is considered advisable to have the cases removed to hospital for observation.

Five such cases were notified, but subsequently the notifications were cancelled. Of the 34 official notifications, 27 were removed and treated in the Borough Isolation Hospital, one was treated in the Military Hospital, and one in the Workhouse Infirmary.

Fifteen cases were notified from Weymouth and 19 from Melcombe Regis. Full particulars will be found in Table III.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease may be fairly stated not to have existed within the Borough during the year, as though five cases were notified—one proving later not to be scarlet—the four remaining proved cases were, as regards three of them, directly imported into the town, the patients sickening in all cases, within the period of incubation, after their arrival within the town from districts where scarlet fever existed. The fourth case was suspected to have caught the infection from a child returning to the town after being discharged from hospital in a neighbouring town as convalescent from scarlet fever. This child was later found to have a purulent discharge from the ear.

With one exception the cases were removed and treated in hospital. The case nursed at home unfortunately developed cranial symptoms and abscess, which may possibly have been due to the insanitary condition of the dwelling, and died.

Diphtheria.—With the exception of the months of April and May isolated cases of this disease occurred throughout each month.

Thirty-one cases in all were notified, four being cancelled at a later date, leaving a net number of 27. This affected 19 houses.

It has been found impossible to trace any certain source of infection in the majority of the cases. They were sporadic, and except in one instance were disconnected as to schools, districts, milk supply, visitors, or any known means of conveying infection.

In the Autumn months several cases appeared in succession in Fernhill Road. The incubation period, and the intermingling of the children on their way to school and at play, etc., was fairly positive evidence that the eight cases arising therewith were personal infection by series from the first.

Eight deaths are registered as due to diphtheria as the primary cause. Of these six occurred in the Isolation Hospital. This is rather a heavy death-rate and is due in great cause to delay in treatment. I think it is generally accepted, and capable of proof, that the earlier antitoxin is used the greater the probabilities of recovery. Many years ago I formed this conclusion, and continued experience has confirmed it. Many of these deaths were preventable, had medical advice been sought early and antitoxin in sufficient quantities been injected on the first suspicion of the case.

In August of this year, so prevalent had this opinion become that it was adopted by the Local Government Board, and made the subject of an Order, whereby the Local Authority are empowered to provide a supply of antitoxin and medical attendance in connection therewith for the use of the poorer inhabitants of their district. The Local Authority are urged to bring this Order under the notice of the medical practitioners in the district, with particulars as to where the gratuitous supply of antitoxin can be had, and to direct them as to the importance of prompt treatment, by antitoxin in all cases, where they have suspicion of the disease, and not to wait the result of bacteriological examination.

It is to be regretted that considerable delay has arisen in the Borough as to the carrying out of the provisions of the Order, and with unsatisfactory results.

Erysipelas.—No cases were notified.

Whether this freedom is a further proof of the improvement in the general sanitary condition of the town, remains to be seen in future years.

Small Pox, Variola.—No cases or suspicious cases or notifications of contacts from ports were reported.

I cannot but view with apprehension, the continued increase in the number of children who are unprotected from attacks of small-pox by vaccination. Amongst the children attending the Elementary schools between the ages of 4 and 13, 31% are unvaccinated, out of a total of 4000 examined.

Enteric Fever.—Two cases were notified. The first, that of a child aged nine, was not bacteriologically confirmed, and was mild throughout. The source of infection was inferred to be water-cress. The second, that of a soldier in barracks, was only diagnosed at a late period of the illness, through the bacteriological test, and considerable doubt still remains as to whether this was a case. Roughly the history of the illness is this—admitted to Military Hospital July 30th for Pyrexia (feverishness) which disappeared on August 6th, discharged as convalescent on the 10th, re-admitted on the 14th for Pyrexia only; Widal test of blood made, result negative. No probable cause of Pyrexia being found, a second Widal test was made on the 25th, with a positive result. No other symptoms of enteric fever, made an uninterrupted recovery. No source of infection (carrier or otherwise) could be traced.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban).—continued.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1908, this disease so far as Poor Law patients are concerned, is a compulsorily notifiable disease.

Voluntary notification was instituted in the Borough in 1905, with a view of treating incipient cases in the Isolation Hospital, and instructing the sufferers in the best means available for home treatment, and the prevention of infection to others, but this form of notification has proved useless. One case in an advanced state was notified, but too late for the purpose intended, the man being then confined to bed, and shortly after died.

Eight cases were notified by the District Medical Officer for the Weymouth District, under the above Regulations.

The routine under this Act is for a visit to be paid, shortly after notification, and some instruction given as to precautions to be observed, at the same time a printed card containing these instructions is left. If the patient is spitting, a pocket flask for their use is left, and disinfectant supplied.

If the case is not confined to the house they are encouraged to report at the office, otherwise the Health Visitor visits at intervals. No interference with work occurs. Deaths from phthisis are immediately notified by the Registrar, and the relatives are encouraged to have the rooms and bedding disinfected. This is carried out practically in all cases.

The number of deaths from this disease still continues high, but this to a certain extent is discounted by the people in an early stage of the disease coming from inland districts to live here for the benefit of their health, and eventually succumbing to its ravages. The subject of serum treatment for tuberculosis is being brought prominently forward in some towns as being more efficacious, and infinitely less expensive, than sanatorium treatment. I shall watch with interest the experiment of a neighbouring County borough in this direction during the coming year.

The death-rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis is 56 per 1000, a considerable reduction on former years, but still too high.

Measles.—A severe outbreak of measles was prevalent in the two latter months of the year.

The course of this outbreak is rather interesting as shewing what the selfish carelessness of one person can bring about.

In November, the Head Mistress of St. Mary's Infant School informed me that one infant was absent, stated to be suffering from Measles. A visit to the house was paid, when it was found that a younger child in the baby room (the absence of which from School was not enquired into, being under five), had contracted the disease whilst away from home. From a fear of interference with his business (which so far as the Health Department was concerned, was not justified) he concealed the nature of the complaint, and this child returned to school at an early date. Following hard day by day throughout the same week as the first case, came numerous other cases. Every possible step was taken to limit the outbreak to the first cases, and circulars were sent to every known Sunday School, asking them to co-operate with us by excluding children whose names were furnished them. A fortnight later it was found necessary to close the Infant School, and a second circular was sent to the Sunday Schools advising them of this, and again asking their co-operation.

I regret very much that the response to this and future requests to the different religious denominations was not general, and in consequence of this, and directly through contact in Sunday Schools or Children's Services, the disease spread to the other Elementary Schools and became general to such an extent that it was considered advisable to close all the Infants' Schools until after the Xmas holidays.

Three deaths resulted during the year from measles as the primary cause.

I should like to call attention here to the idea that generally exists, that measles is a disease that children must have, and the consequent lack of even the most ordinary precaution against danger of infection, practised by the majority of mothers. Many deliberately expose them to the risk, with the expressed desire of getting it all over at one time.

It should be widely known, that the Death-rate throughout the country for measles is greater than that of any other infectious disease, many of which are supposed to be more virulent and fatal.

It is this idea also that tends to nullify all action taken to check an outbreak, once it has become known to be prevalent.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis).—Though two deaths are registered as due primarily to whooping cough, no cases have been known to us to exist. There had been no notification from any school as to the existence of this complaint.

Chicken Pox (Varicella).—This also has been absent throughout the year, with the exception of a few isolated cases.

Mumps.—No authenticated cases known.

In connection with all the Infectious Diseases the following routine is carried out:—Upon report of a case, if no Doctor is in attendance, a visit is paid by the School Nurse or the M.O.H. to verify the diagnosis. Verbal and printed instructions suited to each disease is then given, as regards isolation and quarantine of contacts. Similar instructions are sent to each school that may be affected by attendance, and no child, sufferer or contact, is allowed to return to school without a certificate from the M.O.H. that it may do so. Any employer likely to be affected is also notified. But where a patient is moved to the Isolation Hospital at once and effective disinfection carried out it is rare that interference with labour is necessary.

Epidemic Diarrhoea.—No deaths were this year registered as due to the above, and, as stated elsewhere, we attribute our comparative immunity from this fatal infantile complaint to the great improvement in sanitary conditions of recent years, and the more effective supervision over infant life and feeding. Three deaths of infants are due to gastro-enteritis, and a history of these is given under infantile deaths.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

In former years and reports the deaths from Diarrhoea from all causes have been clumped together, and doing so again the death-rate would equal 13 per 1,000, the lowest rate recorded. The rates for the eight previous years are given for purposes of comparison :—

1902	..	..	0.39	1906	..	..	0.6
1903	..	..	0.29	1907	..	..	0.3
1904	..	..	0.43	1908	..	..	0.25
1905	..	..	0.8	1909	..	..	0.3
			1910	..	..	..	13

Cancer.—Thirty-one deaths were registered as from malignant disease. This is equal to a rate of 1.34 per 1,000 inhabitants, a great increase on former years.

The corresponding rates for former years are as under :—

1900	..	..	0.50	1905	..	..	0.71
1901	..	..	1.05	1906	..	..	0.9
1902	..	..	0.59	1907	..	..	0.64
1903	..	..	0.63	1908	..	..	0.93
1904	..	..	0.97	1909	..	..	0.58

The average for the ten years is 0.83 per 1,000.

Isolation Hospital.—The Borough Isolation Hospital is outside the Borough boundary, near Chickerell, in the Weymouth Rural District. It is situated in an enclosed piece of ground $5\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent. It is built of galvanized iron, wood lined, and heated by slow combustion stoves.

It consists of a central administration block and two detached ward blocks, connected by a covered passage-way with the central block, a laundry block and other outbuildings. Accommodation is provided for 20 patients in each block.

During 1910, 31 cases have been admitted into the hospital, and these may be classified as under :—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	24
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	3
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	1
Observation	..	..	..	3

The permanent Staff consists of Matron and two Nurses, and the usual domestic staff. Additional nursing staff is obtained when necessary from the Trained Nurses Institute. This has not been necessary during the year.

The former Small Pox Hospital, which adjoins this, and has a separate administration department, is now available for general isolation purposes, or for tuberculosis, should occasion arise, giving a total number of 48 beds, and allowing four distinct infectious diseases to be nursed at the same time.

No special provision of a building has been made for the treatment of small-pox, but arrangements have been made whereby a suitable site and temporary accommodation can immediately be obtained.

Disinfection.—Disinfection of rooms is carried out by means of a Mackenzie Pneumatic Sprayer, and generally a solution of Formaldehyde, but other disinfectants are used in special circumstances, such as Perchloride of Mercury solution, Sulphur Dioxide Gas and the Cresols.

Disinfection of articles of bedding, clothing, etc., is carried out at the Corporation Yard by means of a Washington-Lyons Disinfectant and superheated steam and hot air. It has the merit of being as efficient a means as is known, and in our hands has also the merit that damage to articles by wetting has not been complained of.

Undernoted is a schedule of the articles, etc., disinfected during the year.

Articles.	Disinfected.	Destroyed.	Total.
Blankets	.. .. 169	—	169
Towels	.. .. 112	1	113
Curtains	.. .. 187	—	187
Sheets	.. .. 232	—	232
Pillows	.. .. 264	—	264
Quilts	.. .. 78	—	78
Mattresses	.. .. 39	17	56
Beds	.. .. 93	8	101
Carpets	.. .. 68	1	69
Cushions	.. .. 23	—	23
Rugs	.. .. 34	—	34
Bolsters	.. .. 69	—	69
Vallances	.. .. 20	—	20
Clothes	.. .. 1140	6	1146
Sundry Articles	.. .. 1331	Toys, Books, and 1 bag	1334
Rooms	.. .. 129	—	129
Total	.. .. 3988	36	4024

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Births.—443 Births were registered, the smallest number and the lowest rate per 1,000 ever recorded. The birth-rate throughout the country has, however, declined in nearly the same rates.

The rate is equal to 18·8 per 1,000, nearly 5 per 1,000 under the average for the previous ten years, and 1·6 under that of last year, which also was the lowest previous recorded rate since the extension of the Borough.

The sex distribution and the crude rate for the two divisions are as under. They show, as in former years, a remarkable difference.

		M.	F.	T.	Rate per 1000.
Weymouth ..	..	134	146	280	24·3
Melcombe Regis	..	79	75	154	13·3
		213	221	434	18·8

Of the Births, 16 are illegitimate, 11 being credited to Weymouth and 5 to Melcombe Regis. This is equal to 3·6 per cent. of the whole. The average illegitimate birth-rate for the previous seven years (these being the only records available) is 3·5 per cent.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered as occurring within the district is 302, a number nearly approaching last year, and slightly less than the ten years' average. This does not represent the real death-rate of residents in the Borough, as of this number some 23 were deaths of people brought into Hospitals or Institutions from outside districts. At the same time we have also a certain number of residents who die in Institutions in other districts. Making the necessary correction we have a net number of 284 deaths, equal to a rate of 12·3 per 1,000 on the estimated population. This is 1 per 1000 under the seven years' average.

This figure still includes a considerable number of deaths of persons who are only visitors in the Borough, many having come in search of health and only with a faint hope of prolonging life. It is not permissible to exclude any such deaths, though we are not allowed to add these on to the population as residents. Thus in a health resort of this type the death-rate cannot be taken as a true index of the condition of the town. Excluding, as far as is known, the deaths of visitors, the rate would be 11·8.

Forty-five per cent. of the deaths are those of persons 65 years of age and upwards, and a large proportion of this number are certified as due to senile decay.

There is still an undue proportion of deaths due to phthisis and chest and heart diseases.

The deaths of females are in excess of those of males; the opposite is the usual throughout the country generally.

Accidents have caused an unusually large number of deaths. Fifteen deaths are certified by the Coroner; one death is uncertified by either Coroner or Doctor.

Infantile Mortality.—It is a generally accepted fact that the Infantile death-rate is a sure and safe index of the progress of a district towards perfect sanitary conditions, and it is most gratifying to be able to show under this heading a great diminution. It is not an accidental diminution but a steady and continued one.

It has happened in an occasional year previously that a low infantile death-rate has occurred, but this has either been preceded or followed by an abnormally high one; and for many years the ten years' average has varied between 115 and 109, with a steady tendency to decrease.

In 1902, a change in the method of administration of the Health Department was made, and a crusade instituted against insanitary conditions generally, and it is shortly after this date that a noticeable improvement in health conditions begins to manifest itself.

The former lethargy was difficult to overcome, and unfortunately was not confined alone to the outside public, but permeated the department, and the improvement was slow indeed. A house divided against itself cannot stand, and it soon became manifest that if the town was to have any return for the money it expended on the Health Department, the staff would have to alter its ways. The struggle began, and in spite of internal opposition, certain vital matters to the preservation of infant health was gained.

Towards the end of 1908 a Health Visitor was installed, and a second step forward was made. In 1909, a new Sanitary Inspector was appointed, and what might be termed the final step was gained towards efficiency. This retrospect is necessary as pointing the moral of placing active and effective service, as the first principle of a Council, in the engagement, retention, and remuneration of its officials.

The continued and steady decrease in the number of infantile deaths has been most marked during the last three years, when the effects of former measures began to be felt. The causes may be summed up in—(1) improvement in the sanitary condition of cowsheds and milkshops; (2) improvement in the sanitary conditions of the houses of the working classes; (3) the education of the mothers in the methods of rearing infants. Towards this latter, the most effective means have been those of the Health Visitor, Nurse Lethbridge, and the Notification of Births Act.

It has only been too evident this year that ignorance has caused the death of many a promising infant, and that passive neglect as distinct from active cruelty was more rife than was supposed. At least four children were saved from lingering torture, and some others from serious illnesses that would have probably resulted in death or impairment of their system, but for the advice tendered by the Health Visitor.

In the four cases mentioned, where the neglect was such as would have brought the parent or guardian under the Criminal law, it was found necessary for the Medical Officer to visit, and the results have been most satisfactory.

The Infantile Death-rate has by these means been brought down to the exceedingly low rate of 55·3 per 1000 births. In 1909 it was 78·8, and in 1908, 93.

Of the total number of 24 deaths, ten at least are due to antenatal causes. Eight of these are certified as due to premature birth and deficient vitality from birth, and four of these only lived a few hours.

M.O.H Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

The deaths from Diarrhœal diseases total three. All these were bottle fed, and the Health Visitor's report in each of the cases is as under :—

Age at death, four months, delicate from, and under doctor's care since birth, cleft palate and unable to retain or digest its food.

Age at death, six weeks, child bottle-fed; admitted that grandparent had fed child with boiled bread and biscuits.

Age at death, six weeks, vomiting more or less from birth; suffered from Hernia; cause of death, Gastro-enteritis and Marasmus.

Of children breast-fed none have died from Gastro-intestinal diseases.

One death is certified by the Coroner as from starvation. This child was under the supervision of the Health Visitor, having been put out to nurse, and between her visits had been so cruelly neglected as to die. The guardians of the child were prosecuted for manslaughter at the assizes and found guilty.!

The improvement in the Illegitimate Infantile Death-rate is even more manifest, only one death being recorded, equal to a rate of 62.5 per 1000 births. The previous illegitimate death-rates are :—

1903	..	415.7 per 1000	1907	..	..	250 per 1000
1904	..	not recorded	1908	..	..	182 „
1905	..	„ „	1909	..	..	150 „
1906	..	182 per 1000	1910	..	..	62.5 „

It needs no remarks of mine to point out the immense gain to the community that results from this preservation of infant life. Not only the preservation of life, but the preservation of health in the child is now looked after from the moment of its birth until it has reached the age for work.

If the birth-rate is declining, it behoves us more and more to preserve in health and strength those that are born. Compared with 1899, there is a saving this year of 133 children for every 1000 born, or a direct saving of 50 children if the number of births in this year had been the same as that year.

Notifications of Births Act.—This Act received the consent of the L.G.B. to its adoption in November, 1908, but notifications under it did not really commence until January 1st.

A Summary of the Provisions of the Act was sent to all the medical men and midwives in the town, pointing out to them what they were called upon to do. Stamped and addressed cards for them to fill in were provided. Advertisements were inserted in the papers, posters, etc., were posted throughout the town also, giving a concise Summary of the Act and informing parents and householders of their duty.

At the beginning of the year omissions were many, and there are still omissions, but they are gradually being reduced. I receive each Monday morning, from the Registrar of Births, a full return of all the births registered during the previous week and these are carefully compared with the notifications received from parents, doctors or midwives, so that all omissions come to light, but as six weeks are allowed for Registration, these omissions do not come to our notice as a general rule until after that period, when the benefit of the Act is to a great extent nullified.

Being the first year of the Act I have not been too stringent with parents, though I have called the attention of the defaulting medical practitioners to their sins of omission. Now that a reasonable time has elapsed, defaulting parents must also be brought into line in the future.

The greatest sinners have been some members of my own profession, not all, but a few.

Medical men contend that they receive no fee for notifying, and that the state has no right to call upon them to perform a duty for its benefit, without due remuneration. I quite agree with them, I think they ought to be paid. No profession gives more gratuitous work than does the medical profession, and their generosity in this way is continually victimized.

I do not however hold with those members who wilfully break the law. It is the law and it is the duty of all law-abiding citizens to observe such laws, whether they agree with them or not, and use constitutional methods for their repeal. Therefore during the ensuing year it will be my duty to report all such failures as come to my notice and ask for penalties.

The number of notifications received from all sources have been 575, referring to 414 births, of this number 134 were notified by doctors, 325 by midwives, and 116 by parents. Of course many of the notifications were duplicated, and some few were thrice notified, but it is much better that this should occur than that no notification should be received.

Of the number of children born this year, the Registrar has notified 398. 34 Births have been notified by the Registrar alone.

Of the total number of births, 17 have been still births. This is the first time in the history of the district, that a definite account of still births has been kept.

The routine adopted here, has been for the Health Visitor on the receipt of a notification, to visit the parent, after the visits of the Midwife or Doctor have ceased—if in my opinion the case is one suited for such a visit—and to tender advice as to the rearing of the infant, at the same time leaving a printed card of instructions as to feeding and rearing.

The difficulty in introducing a new Act of this type has been great, and much has depended upon the character of the Official. Having seen Nurse Lethbridge's work amongst the school children for over a year I had no fear of her ability to carry out the difficult duty thrown upon her, without offending the susceptibilities of the parents.

Her tactfulness and kindly sympathetic manners have succeeded in rendering her beloved of all; gentle but firm where necessary, her advice is now eagerly sought by all with whom she has come in contact, and mothers delight to bring their children to her to shew how they are coming on.

										1910.	
Disease.	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	8 years Average.	Deaths.	Death Rates.
Measles ..	1	8	1	2	—	6	—	1	2·3	3	·13
Scarlet Fever ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	6	14	2·7	1	·04
Whooping Cough ..	—	1	5	3	1	—	4	1	1·8	2	·08
Diphtheria ..	2	—	—	3	6	3	2	12	3·5	8	·34
Fever { Enteric ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Continued ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	·5	—	—
Diarrhœa ..	—	—	—	5	7	3	3	2	2·5	—	—
Totals ..	5	10	6	14	14	12	15	32	13·3	14	—
Zymotic death-rate per 1000 population }	·24	·49	·29	·67	·6	·5	·6	1·4	·6	—	·6

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Factory and Workshops Act.—In accordance with the above Act, and with the Home Office instructions, I submit a summary of the work done under these Acts as far as they concern the Sanitary Authority.

The improvement in the general sanitary conditions of Workshops and Factories reported in previous years, continues, and this year less time has been given (in consequence of over pressure in other departments) to inspection, with the result that at the end of the year, the full quota had not been visited by December 31st, but will have been by the time this report is in print.

Special attention has been given to such Workshops and Factories as are engaged in the making or preparing of food and drink for human consumption, with special reference to Mineral Water Factories, and the bottling of beer, etc.

It is most pleasant to report, that with one exception—due to carelessness in supervision—the methods of cleansing the bottles and the general preparation were excellent. The system in vogue in the two large Breweries within the district is one that deserves high commendation.

In the factory referred to as the exception, many of the jets for final rinsing of the bottles were choked, the water supply for soaking and washing was not changed sufficiently frequent, and the circular brushes were worn. In consequence deposits, some of them fungoid, were found in bottles supposed to be cleansed. The supervision of the principals was lax. Constant supervision by the Health Department has had a good effect.

The difficulty with Outworkers' Lists has been referred to in another place, but I may here add that it is no part of our duty to send them forms for the purpose, and if we do it is more than lack of courtesy on the part of the employers not to return these promptly.

The Bakehouses in the district are, generally speaking, keeping up the high standard of cleanliness enacted in former years. The few to whom we have had to send notices to cleanse, etc., have been new occupiers of old premises.

The provision of castors or wheels upon troughs is insisted upon, that they may be pulled out from the wall and thorough cleansing behind and underneath allowed.

There is one underground bakehouse employing one person. Two bakehouses have been closed. In both cases these had been previously reported as being unsuitable, but had been reoccupied without notice to the Factory Inspector.

Laundries.—There are 3 Factory Laundries on the Register (one of these was burned during the year and at the close of the year has not been rebuilt), 11 workshops and 33 nondescript, it is difficult to use any other word for the major portion of these 33.

The occupiers claim them to be domestic workshops, that is employing no labour outside members of their own family. Their definition of members of their own family is a very wide one, extending to sisters and cousins and aunts, including daughters-in-law, lodgers, etc., etc. We cannot accept their definitions, knowing in many cases that the relationship is vague, that they do not reside in the same house even if closely related, and that they are constantly employed at least two days per week, and that the Laundry is distinctly carried on for gain, and is the principal means of livelihood.

The intention is, of course, to evade the Act with its regulations and supervision, and in fear of stoppage of work in cases of infectious disease. The difficulty of dealing with this type is great, and though some have been notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories for the District, no action has been taken, evidently the biased statement of the interested person being considered of more value than that of the unbiassed local officials, with their varied means of acquiring accurate information.

For a small town this number of laundries may seem large, but we have to take into consideration the great influx of work, caused by the periodical visits and lengthened stay of the Fleet, and these small laundries are perpetual sources of danger for infectious and contagious disease. The remaining workshops do not call for any particular mention.

Home Workers.—The Home-work order of May 23rd, 1907, requires that when work of certain kinds is given out to a workman or a contractor to be done outside the factory or workshop, a list of all such persons to whom work is sent out (whether such home-workers are employed wholly or partially) shall be kept, and that a copy of the list shall be sent to the Local Authority not later than February 1st and August 1st in each year.

The plan has been adopted of forwarding a list to each likely employer of such, immediately before the dates of delivery, with the request that it should be filled in and returned. A considerable amount of trouble is still experienced in obtaining the list of out-workers, in eighteen cases further written application was made before the lists were received.

Sixty lists have been received from thirty-one employers, of the employment of 154 home-workers, being approximately double the number of individual workers employed, the actual number of home-workers on the lists, allowing for duplications, being 71.

Six lists of home-workers' names and addresses were forwarded to other Councils.

Fifty-seven inspection visits were made to home-workers' premises, the conditions found being fairly satisfactory. In most cases a separate room is entirely devoted to the worker; in some cases work is carried on in the living room, and in one case only the bedroom served as workroom.

A case of infectious disease was notified on an outworker's premises, an order made under Sect. 110, and measures promptly taken to prevent the spread of infection.

Two notices to cleanse and purify premises were served on outworkers. One has been remedied, the second in default, and for other reasons has had a closing order made on the house.

One notice served on owner of insanitary premises, has been remedied.

There has been no overcrowding, and on the whole the conditions under which the work is carried out are good and satisfactory.

Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority—Mr. P. S. B. Wetherall

I have the honour of submitting my Report as Medical Officer of the Port of Weymouth for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

By the sanction of my Authority the work has been carried out on similar lines as during last year. That is, my Assistant, Dr. Howard, of Portland, has been responsible for all ships from infected ports and also for the supervision of all Foreign Meats landed at Portland. He has had a very considerable amount of work to carry out, and in my opinion has discharged his duties in a competent and tactful manner, and I have requested him to furnish a separate Report for work he has accomplished, which will be forwarded to you in due course, as on the year 1909.

I have made myself responsible for the inspection of all vessels entering Weymouth Harbour, and I have from time to time inspected the Great Western Steamers which run between the Port of Weymouth and the Channel Islands, and have found everything clean and in good order. I have also visited Messrs. Cosens and Company's steamers, which ply locally as Excursion Boats, Tugs, etc., and have always found everything in a good sanitary condition.

I have made myself responsible during the year for all Foreign Meats which are landed at Weymouth by the G.W.R. Boats from Nantes. On the 12th March, 1910, my Inspector, Mr. Butt, asked me to attend at 9 p.m. on board the s.s. Melmore. I went and found the vessel had not then arrived. She arrived on the 13th, having no Foreign Meat as cargo, but Vegetables, which I found in sound condition.

On the 11th of April, 1910, the s.s. Melmore arrived from Nantes, having one Cask of Salt Pork, which was passed. She arrived again on the 18th of April, two Cases of Bacon being amongst the cargo, which was passed as sound. On the 25th April the s.s. Lynx from Nantes arrived with five Cases of Bacon, which were passed. On May 2nd the s.s. Lynx arrived from Nantes with nineteen Cases of Salt Pork for French ships as ship's stores, which were allowed to proceed. On the 9th May the s.s. Melmore brought over two Cases of Bacon from Nantes, which were passed. On the 23rd May the s.s. Melmore arrived from Nantes with thirty-eight Casks of Salt Pork and fourteen Cases of Preserved Meat for a French vessel lying in Barry Dock. On the 30th of May the s.s. Melmore arrived with twenty-five Cases of Salt Pork, one Case of Ham for a French vessel lying at Swansea; twelve Barrels of Salt Pork for a French ship lying at Port Talbot, which were allowed to proceed. On the 6th of June the s.s. Melmore arrived from Nantes with eighteen Pigs' Carcasses, which were found to be sound, and were allowed to proceed, but it was reported to me that upon their arrival at Taunton thirteen were condemned by the Medical Officer of that town. I was not surprised as the weather was hot and thundery and the carcasses were placed in closed trucks for twelve hours. Upon the 13th of June the s.s. Melmore arrived from Nantes having three Cases of Bacon, eight parcels of Preserved Fish as stores for a ship at Cardiff; thirty Casks of Salt Pork, fifteen Casks of Preserved Meat for ships at Port Talbot, which were allowed to proceed. On the 20th July the s.s. Melmore arrived from Nantes with twenty-one Casks of Salt Pork, twenty-three Casks of Preserved Meat for a ship at Limerick, and twenty-eight Casks of Salt Pork for a ship at Dublin.

All Vegetables, Fruit, etc., landing from the Channel Islands have been inspected by my Inspector, and with very few exceptions have been found sound.

On the 21st November I visited the sailing ship Olga, of Swedish Nationality, belonging to Stockholm, as it was reported to me a seaman was sick. I saw the man who had been complaining of being ill from the 4th of November with a pain in his side. He was a Russian who was taken on board at Koivusaari, in the Wyborg district, on the 1st November. Upon examination I found the man was suffering from Pleurisy. He was landed and admitted to the Royal Hospital, and made a good recovery.

During the year the following cases have been admitted into the Port Sanitary Authorities' Hospital.

FROM PORTLAND SANITARY AUTHORITY.

There were at the Hospital on the 1st of January, 1910, seven cases of Scarlet Fever and one case of Typhoid Fever, all from Portland. They all made good recoveries and were discharged during the month of January.

During February and March seven further cases of Scarlet Fever were admitted from Portland. They also made good recoveries, and were discharged during the month of April.

From shipboard the following cases were sent by my Assistant, Dr. Howard.

On the 4th of June three cases of Typhoid Fever were admitted from s.s. Ryde, and they all recovered and were discharged respectively on the 1st and 8th of July and 17th August. The last of these three, W. Chappell, was a very long and tedious case, with at least two relapses, but eventually the man recovered.

On the 9th of October a case of Typhoid was admitted from the s.s. Malagar and was discharged on the 15th of November, after an uneventful recovery.

On the 4th of November a case of Typhoid was admitted from the s.s. Brattingsborg. This was a complicated case, which was very violent on admission, but made a good recovery and was discharged on the 21st of December.

The Nursing, as in former years, has been most efficiently carried out by Mr. and Mrs. Dodge, who have performed their duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

REPORT OF MR. T. HOWARD, ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER.

I beg to submit my report as Assistant Medical Officer to the Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority for the year 1910. Included in my Report is a summary of the measures taken during the course of the year for preventing the introduction of Epidemic disease within the Port and for the prevention of the spread of Infectious Diseases on board ship or into the surrounding districts, together with an account of the action taken in regard to sanitary condition over all ships and vessels in Portland Roads, and the measures taken to abate any conditions injurious to health found during the course of such inspection.

The Port was permanently constituted a Port Sanitary District by the Local Government Board on October 1st, 1897.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority—continued.

Limits of Jurisdiction.

"A line drawn due south from the seaward extremity of the common boundary of the parishes of Punccknowle and Abbotsbury to the nearest point in the seaward boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth, a line drawn from such last-mentioned point and thereafter following the seaward boundary of the Customs Port of Weymouth to the point at which the said boundary is intersected by a line coincident with the common boundary of the Customs Ports of Weymouth and Poole, and a line drawn from such last-mentioned point and thereafter following the common boundary of the Customs Ports of Weymouth and Poole to its termination at St. Alban's Head in the Parish of Worth Matravers ;

Together with the waters of the said Port of Weymouth within such limits, and all docks, basins, harbours, creeks, channels, roads, bays and streams within the aforesaid limits, and the place or places which may from time to time be appointed as the Customs Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port, and the place or places for the time being appointed for the mooring or anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port under any Regulations for the prevention of the spread of diseases issued under the authority of the statute in that behalf, and for the purposes of any such Regulations as aforesaid shall also extend to any ship which in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or which shall be on its way thither."

The following table shows the number and registered tonnage of Steam and Sailing Vessels entering Portland Roads and Weymouth Harbour during 1910 :

Portland Roads.		Number.	Tonnage.
Steamers from Foreign	..	817	973,619
Sailing Vessels from Foreign	..	46	18,651
Steamers Coastwise	..	697	275,620
Sailing Vessels Coastwise	..	215	17,321
Total		1,775	1,285,211
Totals during 1909	..	1,559	1,057,048
Weymouth Harbour.			
Steamers from Foreign	..	490	116,812
Sailing Vessels from Foreign	..	20	3,045
Steamers Coastwise	..	252	32,510
Sailing Vessels Coastwise	..	129	7,647
Total		891	160,014
Totals during 1909	..	654	131,241

Included amongst the Steamers from Foreign entering Weymouth Harbour are the Cross Chaunel boats running between Jersey Guernsey, and Weymouth.

Cholera, Plague, and Yellow Fever.

The Regulations in force and the arrangements made for coping with these diseases were fully described in my Report for 1909. The usual printed instructions have been given to passengers and members of discharged crews, and their names and the addresses to which they are stated to be proceeding have also been taken, and forwarded to the Clerk.

Owing to the continued prevalence of Cholera in Russia the Port Sanitary Authority deemed it advisable to re-appoint me as Assistant Medical Officer of Health (under Article XXVII.) to act in execution of the Plague, Cholera, and Yellow Fever Order, 1907, for one year from October, 1910.

Cholera

The present is the sixth pandemic of Cholera which has been recorded. The first outbreak occurred at Mecca in 1902, and was associated with Pilgrims from India. Hence it was carried by the Pilgrims returning to Egypt—the story being that one of them carried a bottle of water from the Holy Well at Mecca to his own district, and then proceeded to distribute the contents amongst the neighbouring wells. At all events Cholera first appeared in this district and caused no fewer than 33,000 deaths in Egypt. In 1903 it spread along the Syrian Coast, and in 1904 appeared at Bagdad. From thence it spread during the two following years to Russia and Poland. In 1907 the Southern portions of Russia were largely affected. In 1908 it was epidemic throughout the greater part of Russia. It continued at St. Petersburg during 1908 and 1909 and on the approach of Summer in 1910 spread throughout the country.

Vessels from Russia conveyed Cholera to Rotterdam, 1907.

During the Summer Cholera was conveyed to Italy by Pilgrims from Russia, and was confined to the South-Eastern portion. Later in the year Maderia and Constantinople were affected.

The Ports of St. Petersburg, Cronstadt, Viborg, Riga, Narva, Bjorko, Reval, Archangel, Tornea, Odessa, Kherson, Theodosia, Kerteh, Taganrog, Roskv-on-von, Novorossisk, Nikoluiiev, and Poti, various Italian Ports, Maderia and Constantinople, were regarded as infected with Cholera during 1910.

All vessels from these Ports were subjected to medical examination before coming alongside the coal hulks, or before entering Weymouth Harbour. Close enquiry was made as to the health of the crew during the voyage, particularly with respect to the occurrence of diarrhoea or other bowel complaint. Special attention was paid to the water tanks, ballast tanks and bilges. I have recommended that the water tanks if filled with water from an infected place, should be treated with Permanganate of Potash, and limewashed; the ballast tanks, if the stability of the ship permits, to be emptied by pumping them out when proceeding to sea; the bilges to be disinfected by pouring in a strong disinfecting solution, allowing water to enter and then pumping it into the sea.

Plague.—This disease was prevalent in those centres which it occupied during previous years. A fresh focus of infection occurred at Odessa in June, where it continues at the present time.

The Ports of Bombay, Calcutta, Rangoon Karachi (and Odessa since the end of June) were regarded as infected, and all vessels from these ports were subjected to medical examination.

In all cases of ships arriving from Plague infected Ports, careful enquiries were made as to any suspicious rat sickness or mortality.

No cases of Plague were discovered on board any ship calling at Portland during the year. It may be of interest to record that the ss. Wooda called at Portland on February 14th and proceeded on the same day to Hamburg, at which port she was quarantined owing to the discovery of dead rats, which on being submitted to bacteriological examination, were found to be infected with Plague.

The following were the notes made at my visit :—

S.S. Wooda.—On Monday, 14th February, I medically inspected the crew of 22 hands all told on board the ss. Wooda from Bombay, and enquired into the cause of sickness of the donkeyman, aged 32 years, who was found to be suffering from an inflamed eye, otherwise all well. The vessel left Bombay on January 7th, called at Suez and Port Said. As to any undue prevalence of rats, rat sickness or mortality, the Master's replies were in the negative. The above patient was landed and proceeded to his home; his name and address were sent to the Clerk.

Yellow Fever.—Yellow fever continues prevalent in certain places in Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil. No vessel during the year called at Portland from a port infected with yellow fever.

Infectious Disease.—During the year vessels coming from the above-mentioned Cholera and Plague infected ports, or any vessel having a foul bill of health, was subjected to medical examination.

Vessels were also visited on account of sickness of an infectious or suspicious nature.

Small-pox.—I am pleased to report that no cases of small-pox have been brought into the port or been notified as having existed on vessels calling at Portland during the year. Careful particulars are taken of all the ports of departure of vessels bound for the Port of Weymouth where cases of small-pox exist.

Typhoid Fever.—Five cases of typhoid fever were reported to the Authority during the year, and were treated in the Port Sanitary Hospital. Two cases were reported on ships calling at Portland, which had been removed to Hospitals aboard. In all cases the character of the water supply was enquired into, and directions were given to have the water tanks emptied and cleansed, besides the routine disinfection for infectious sickness.

The following are the particulars of vessels inspected which had cases of typhoid fever on board :—

S.S. Ryde.—On Saturday, June 4th, I medically examined the crew of 27 hands all told on board ss. Ryde from Barbadoes, and inquired into the cause of sickness of five Firemen and the Third Engineer, aged 44, 24, 45, 32, 30 and 24 years respectively. Two Firemen and the Third Engineer, aged 32, 24, 24 years respectively, were found to be suffering from typhoid fever, and the others from diarrhoea. The ship left Barbadoes on April 16th, and on the same day one of the water tanks was filled up with fresh water; arrived at Newport (Virg.) on the 19th May, where a fireman who sickened on the 12th May, was removed to Hospital suffering from typhoid fever. Fresh water was taken at Newport. The history of the outbreak is rather interesting as being confined to the Firemen and Engineer (no other member of the crew being affected), and in the next place that fresh water was taken at Newport, and yet the sickness continued. On further investigation I found that the water taken at Barbadoes was first used on May 2nd, and the first fireman was taken ill on May 12th. The empty tank was filled up with fresh water at Newport, but the tank containing water taken at Barbadoes was not emptied out or cleansed. It was water from this latter tank that the crew continued to drink until the vessel reached Portland. This case shows very clearly the necessity there is for direct supervision on the part of Sanitary Officials over the emptying and cleansing of water tanks. As to the disease being confined to the Firemen and Engineer, although the remainder of the crew had drunk the same water, it was noted that the former had drunk copiously of water during the voyage, whilst the other members of the crew had only drunk sparingly, and at meal times.

The two Firemen and the Third Engineer were forthwith removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital. Directions were given to have both water tanks emptied and cleansed, and the usual disinfection was carried out.

S.S. Maloga.—On Saturday, October 8th, I medically examined the crew of 18 hands all told on board the ss. Maloga from Oporto, and inquired into the cause of sickness, three Firemen, aged 30, 28 and 20 years respectively. The two former were found to be convalescent from diarrhoea, the latter was suffering from typhoid fever. The patient was removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital on the following day. The vessel left Oporto on the 3rd of October direct for Portland, and the foregoing sickened on the same day. Directions were given for the water tanks to be emptied and cleansed, and the routine disinfection was carried out by your Sanitary Inspector.

S.S. Brattingsborg.—On Thursday, November 3rd, I medically examined the crew of 26 hands all told on board the ss. Brattingsborg from Bona, and inquired into the cause of sickness of the First, Second and Third Officers, aged 35, 30 and 21 years respectively. The two former were found to be suffering from catarrh, the latter from a severe attack of typhoid fever. The patient was forthwith removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital. The vessel left Bona on October 23rd and the foregoing sickened on October 29th.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority—continued.

Phthisis.—Four cases of tuberculosis were reported to the Authority during the year. Wherever cases of phthisis were discovered, the berths were thoroughly cleansed, and any contaminated material destroyed. I attempted as far as possible to secure isolation for the infected persons, or their removal from ship board. The following are the particulars of the ships inspected :—

S.S. Dania.—On Sunday, January 9th, I inspected the crew of 18 hands all told on board the ss. Dania from Leghorn, and found the Second Officer, aged 28 years, suffering from phthisis. I suggested that a tent should be rigged up on deck, where the patient was attended to by the Master during the remainder of the voyage.

S.S. Umtali.—On Wednesday, January 19th, the ss. Umtali arrived at Portland from London en-route for Durban. Inquired into the cause of sickness of the Master, aged 43 years, who was found to be suffering from a severe attack of hæmoptysis. The patient was landed and treated on shore and when convalescent proceeded to his home. The usual precautions were taken.

S.S. Hafursfjord.—On Tuesday, March 1st, I medically examined the crew of 18 hands all told on board the ss. Hafursfjord from Iberza, and inquired into the cause of sickness of an A.B., aged 23 years, who was found suffering from acute tuberculosis of the lung. A tent was rigged up on deck, where the patient was attended to by the Master during the remainder of the voyage. The usual precautions were taken.

S.S. Broadmayne.—On Saturday, December 17th, I inquired into the cause of sickness of an A.B., aged 35 years, on board the ss. Broadmayne, who was found to be suffering from phthisis. The patient was landed and proceeded to his home.

Particulars of Vessels Inspected.

12th January.—ss. Argos (Swedish) from Antwerp. Inquired into the cause of illness of an A.B., aged 23 years, who had a Rash which however was non-infectious. Medical treatment given.

16th January.—ss. St. Oswald (British) from Antwerp. Inquired into the cause of sickness of two Firemen, aged 35 and 27 years respectively. The former was found to be suffering from symptoms of Appendicitis, the latter from enlarged left Inguinal Glands. Medical treatment given.

20th January.—ss. Ringwood (British) from Barry. An A.B., aged 25 years, suffering from Cellulitis of Neck. Medical treatment given.

3rd February.—ss. Garnet (British) from Leghorn. The Chief Engineer, suffering from a dislocated shoulder. The patient received medical treatment.

19th March.—s. Tug Atlas (German) from Hamburg. The Master, aged 45 years, suffering from Influenza. Medical treatment recommended.

April 4th.—ss. Garonne (British) from Hamburg. An A.B., aged 24 years, suffering from Malarial Fever. Medical treatment recommended.

5th April.—ss. Kildale (British) from Bombay. (1) Fireman, aged 30 years, suffering from Erysipelas. (2) Second Officer, suffering from symptoms of Appendicitis. The former was removed to a separate berth.

7th April.—Barque Asia (Russian) from Buenos Ayres. An A.B., aged 35 years, suffering from Malarial Fever.

8th April.—ss. Torrington (British) from Bombay. Fireman, aged 33 years, suffering from enlarged left Inguinal Glands. The Master reported that this man had been treated in Hospital at Bombay as a suspected case of Plague, but had been discharged as non-infectious. A Fireman, aged 27 years, suffering from Inguinal Hernia.

18th April.—ss. Countess (British) from Rotterdam. A Fireman, aged 28 years, suffering from Influenza.

20th April.—ss. Catalone (British) from Savannah. An A.B., aged 25 years, suffering from Malarial Fever. Medical treatment recommended.

20th April.—ss. Ventnor (British) from Bombay. A Fireman, aged 32 years, suffering from enlarged Inguinal Glands, the result of Venereal Disease.

27th April.—ss. Alpha (Dutch) from Parana. An A.B., aged 23 years, suffering from Influenza.

30th April.—ss. Caiuma (Norwegian) from Newcastle. The Master was found dead in his berth with his throat cut. An inquest was held, and a verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind returned.

7th May.—ss. Alf (British) from Swansea. An A.B., aged 27 years, suffering from Bronchitis, and a Fireman, aged 32 years, suffering from sub-acute Rheumatism. Medical treatment recommended.

21st May.—ss. Rosslyn (British) from London. The Third Officer, aged 25 years, was suffering from a severe attack of Influenza. Medical treatment given.

29th May.—ss. Selino (British) from Novorossisk. Fireman, aged 30 years, had suffered from Diarrhoea for four days during the voyage. Found all well.

3rd June.—ss. Kingswear (British) from Newcastle. An A.B., aged 20 years, suffering from Diarrhoea. A Fireman, aged 30 years, suffering from Venereal Disease. The patients received medical treatment.

6th June.—ss. Llangibby (British) from Nikolaiev. The Third Officer had suffered from Diarrhoea for four days during the voyage. Found all well.

23rd June.—ss. Belford (British) from Taganrog. (1) Fireman, aged 30 years, had been ill during the voyage, suffering from Diarrhoea. (2) An A.B., aged 23 years, suffering from enlarged Inguinal Glands—Venereal.

26th July.—ss. Blenda (Swedish) from Marseilles. A Sailor, aged 28 years, suffering from symptoms of Appendicitis. Medical treatment recommended.

17th August.—ss. Lady of the Isles (British) from Penzance. A sailor, aged forty years, suffering from severe Gastric Haemorrhage. Patient landed and placed under medical treatment.

18th August.—ss. Isles of Kent (British) from Newcastle. An A.B., aged 42 years, suffering from Influenza.

24th August.—ss. Nettleton (British) from Novorossisk. A Sailor, aged 35 years, suffering from Erysipelas of the Head. Patient removed to a separate berth.

13th September.—ss. Craigern (British) from Rosario. An A.B., aged 30 years, suffering from Rheumatism. Medical treatment recommended.

8th October.—ss. Nunima (British) from Taganrog. A Fireman, aged 35 years, suffering from swollen Inguinal Glands—Venereal.

26th October.—ss. Rosabelle (British) from London. An A.B., aged 32 years, suffering from Influenza. The patient received medical treatment.

27th October.—ss. Fanny (Danish) from Gefle. A Fireman, aged 29 years, suffering from a severe attack of Rheumatic Fever. Patient removed to Hospital.

2nd November.—ss. Ingelfingen (German) from Norfolk, Azores. The Master reported that an A.B., aged 29 years, had been confined in a berth in the alley way of the Forecastle since October 28th, as he had shown homicidal tendencies. When the door was opened the berth was found in a very filthy state, and the patient in a very exhausted condition. The berth was thoroughly cleansed, and more suitable arrangements made for the comfort of the patient.

23rd November.—ss. Conis Cliffe (British) from Nikolaiev. The Master reported that two Sailors had died suddenly in the lower after peak of the ship during the voyage. Probable cause of death, poisoning by carbon monoxide.

3rd December.—ss. Pendcen (British) from Taganrog. Inquired into the cause of sickness of two Fireman, aged 37 and 27 years respectively. The former was found to be suffering from Inguinal Hernia and the latter from Venereal Disease. Medical treatment recommended.

6th December.—ss. Kildare (British) from Savannah. Two Firemen, aged 30 and 26 years respectively. The former was found to be suffering from Malarial Fever, the latter from Rheumatism.

17th December.—ss. Dido (British) from Bombay. Fireman, aged 35 years, suffering from enlarged right Inguinal Glands. An A.B., aged 29 years, suffering from Inguinal Hernia.

17th December.—ss. Tees (British) from Newcastle-on-Tyne. A fireman, aged 36 years, suffering from Dysentery. Medical treatment given.

17th December.—ss. Tredwidden (British) from Nikolaiev. An A.B., aged 28 years, suffering from Rheumatism.

20th December.—ss. Hermione (British) from Christinge. A consular passenger, aged 43 years, suffering from Cancer of the Stomach. Patient removed to Hospital.

22nd December.—ss. Huntsman (British) from Calcutta. Two native fireman, aged respectively 36 and 25 years. The former was suffering from enlarged Inguinal Glands, the result of venereal disease; the latter from enlarged left Femoral Glands, the result of injury. Medical treatment recommended.

23rd December.—ss. Dovedale (British) from Nikolaiev. An A.B., aged 25 years, suffering from Conjunctivitis. Medical treatment recommended.

29th December.—ss. Umsinga (British) from Bombay. The Master reported the death of the Surgeon, by drowning, on December 10th. A passenger, aged 36 years, suffering from Malarial Fever. Medical treatment recommended.

Supervision of Food Importations.—The Unsound Food and Foreign Meat Regulations, 1908, were issued by the Local Government Board under the Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Act, 1907, "for the purpose of preventing danger to the public health from the importation, preparation, storage, and distribution of articles of food or drink (other than drugs or water)." The Act applies the methods of control which have so long been in successful operation with respect to infectious diseases. The Order gives Port Sanitary Authorities power to inspect food products imported into this Country. Part of the work under the Regulations devolves on the Officers of Customs.

As I stated in my last report, the quantity of food stuffs imported at either Weymouth or Portland is not very great. The principal food importations are from the Channel Islands, consisting of fresh fruit and vegetables and an occasional shipment of meat (to which the Foreign Meat Regulations do not apply). A few cargoes of grain are brought to Weymouth, usually from Russian Ports. These cargoes are as a rule, partially discharged by means of lighters in Portland Roads. A cargo of market produce is brought from Nantes once a week to Weymouth during the winter months of the year.

During the year several cargoes of food stuffs have been discharged from coasters at Castletown Wharf, Portland, and the presence of such a large number of H.M. ships in Portland Roads for the greater part of the year, will no doubt cause a considerable increase in this class of trade in the near future. It is therefore necessary that watchful supervision should be exercised over all these vessels carrying such consignments and to follow them up to their ultimate destination. Some such arrangement as works so satisfactorily at Portland in connection with unsound meat, whereby the Admiralty and Sanitary Authority co-operate, might be adopted.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority—continued.

During the year, Dr. Hancock, an Inspector of the Local Government Board, made a general survey of the port, especially having regard to the "Foreign Meat" and "Unsound Food Regulations." At the Meeting of the Authority in October, the Clerk stated that the Inspector informed him that the "Local Government Board were considering the question of combining the Sanitary Authority of Weymouth and Port Authority, for the purpose of carrying out the 'Foreign Meat' and 'Unsound Food Regulations,' and that a draft copy of the Order for combination would in due course be submitted." The feeling of the members present was in opposition to any such arrangement, as it was stated that Weymouth, speaking broadly, was not a food (excluding fresh fruit and vegetables from the Channel Islands) importing port. It was further stated that inspection of food can only be carried out on the Quays or Wharves of Weymouth and Portland, as in no case are foods warehoused, and no cold stores are available. Further it was thought that difficulties might arise when, as in special cases, articles have to be examined before they are discharged from the ship. And again where cargoes are damaged through some accident, *e.g.*, collision and subsequent immersion, or in the case of salvage cargoes it was felt that the power to act ought to be exclusively in the hands of the Officers responsible to the Port Sanitary Authority. Pending the receipt of the Board's Order, it was decided to allow the matter to remain *sub judice* when a special meeting will be called.

During the year I have examined several cargoes of grain, potatoes and flour, at Portland, and found them in good condition.

The procedure arranged to be adopted is that the cargo of every ship arriving in the Port and containing food is to be examined. The quality of the consignments to be gauged by a method of sampling, or an inspection of portions of the consignment. If on a preliminary sampling a certain degree of unsoundness is found, a further examination is to be made, and if considered necessary, the whole cargo is to be sorted on the quays.

INSPECTION OF VESSELS.

The duties were carried out under the provision of the Public Health Act, 1875, which enacts that a ship, when in a district of a Local Authority, shall be dealt with as a house within the district (Sec. 110).

The requirements attended to included cleanliness and ventilation of living spaces, light for the same, leakage and effluvium from water closets, limbers, holds, bilges, fore and after peaks, and accumulation of filth; the provision of clean and suitable storerooms for provisions, clean and suitable vessels for containing pure water, repairs of dilapidations, cleansing and the removal of filth. The vessels in particular dealt with were those calling at Castletown Wharf, Portland, whilst in the case of ships calling for coal, etc., and inspected in Portland Roads, notices of sanitary defects found were sent to the Medical Officers of Health of various British Ports. Unfortunately, this work which entails a considerable amount of correspondence, could not be followed up as thoroughly as I wish, owing to the pressure of work in carrying out the Plague, Cholera and Yellow Fever Regulations during the present year.

I consider this work most important, as many of the diseases to which sailors are peculiarly liable arise from faulty construction, lack of cleanliness and nuisance; such as Rheumatism—the "sailor's curse"—due to defective and damp forecastles, enteric fever and dysentery, often associated with water contaminated either before or after being placed in the ship's fresh water tanks, and in other cases due to the close association of the sick with the healthy in the confined quarters on shipboard; phthisis due to defective lighting and ventilation and the opportunity for easy infection. It is against these diseases that the efforts of Port Sanitary Authorities are directed by improving the sanitation of vessels.

Among the structural defects discovered were the following :—

- (a) W.C.'s forward and separated from forecastle by defective wood partitions only.
- (b) Paint lockers, oil and lamp rooms adjoining living rooms.
- (c) Defective wood chambers, instead of iron pipes for cable chains which pass through forecastle from windlass above to chain lockers below forecastle.
- (d) No arrangement for storage of provisions, such as milk, butter, bread, jams and other perishable articles, except in forecastle lockers (no light or ventilation) in the case of "weekly" boats.
- (e) Forecastles deficiently lighted and ventilated.
- (f) Bare iron decks over bunks and shipsides.

Dirty Forecastles or Deck Houses.—The forecastles or deckhouses in twelve British and ten Foreign vessels respectively have either been cleansed, painted or limewashed.

They were of the following nationalities :—

British ..	12	German ..	2	Russian ..	1	Swede ..	1
Norwegian ..	3	Greek ..	2	Dane ..	1		

Dirty or Infected Bedding Destroyed.—On my advice 23 beds have been destroyed on board steamships during the year.

The following were the *other Nuisances and Defects dealt with* :—

Defective hawse and cable chain pipes in forecastle ..	..	..	4
Defective or foul water closets ..	..	..	30
Living spaces and with defective ventilation and port lights ..	..	..	2
No water closet accommodation for crew ..	..	..	3
Defective fresh water tanks ..	..	..	2
Dirty condition of food lockers ..	..	..	8

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority—continued.

Notices.—During the year eleven letters have been sent to the Owners and Masters of vessels, requesting them to remedy sanitary defects, and of these eight have complied with the requirements either at Portland or at one of the loading ports. Three I have been unable to follow up.

Forty-three verbal requests were made as to insanitary conditions on board ships, and it is satisfactory to be able to state that in every case my instructions were complied with.

Water Supply.—On board 36 vessels the drinking water in use for the crew was found to have been taken at infected ports. In every case the Master was directed to have it removed and the tanks cleansed, which was carried out.

Water Boat.—The water boat supplying vessels in the Roads with fresh water has been examined periodically, and the tanks were found in a satisfactory condition.

I desire to record my thanks and indebtedness to the Collector of Customs and his various Officials (especially those at Portland) for their courtesy and the hearty co-operation extended to me as the Assistant Medical Officer of Health to your Authority.

Wimborne—Mr. C. H. Watts Parkinson

Area of District.—537 acres, exclusive of area covered by water, 507 acres.

Population.—(Census 1901) 3,696. Estimated to middle of 1910, 3,800.

Births.—67 (25 males and 42 females). Birth-rate 18 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality per 1,000 births, 74.6.

Deaths Registered.—61. Death-rate per 1,000 population, 16.

Deaths in Public Institutions, 19. Of these 15 were non-residents.

Deducting Deaths of Non-Residents.—The net mortality is 40, or 10.5 per 1,000.

Of the 61 deaths 36 were males and 25 females, and 35 over 65 (2 over 90 and 13 over 80 years). The average age at death was 58 years.

There were 6 illegitimate births with no death.

Zymotic Death-rate.—No death from notifiable disease, but two deaths from whooping cough.

Deaths at various ages:—

Infants, 5. Two premature birth, 1 whooping cough, 2 convulsions.

1 to 5 years, 1, whooping cough.

5 to 15, 1.

15 to 25, 4. 1 (non-resident) phthisis, 1 heart disease, 2 all other diseases (1 non-resident).

25 to 65, 15. 1 (non-resident) phthisis, 3 pneumonia (2 non-residents), 1 (non-resident) parturition pneumonia, 1 bronchitis, 2 cancer (1 non-resident), 2 heart disease, 5 all other diseases (3 non-residents).

Over 65, 35. 1 influenza pneumonia, 2 cancer, 4 heart (1 non-resident), 4 bronchitis, 24 all other diseases (12 non-residents).

Notification of Infectious diseases.

Twenty-six cases notified, but no death. 25 scarlet fever and 1 diphtheria. There were, however, cases of mumps and chicken pox, and a good many cases of whooping cough, two of these were fatal.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-five cases notified chiefly of a very mild type. In my 1909 report, I stated that although scarlet fever cases had occurred around us we had escaped, but in January 1 case was notified, in April 3 cases, May 2 June 3, July 2, and August 4. They were chiefly children attending School, and living in St. John's Parish, but attending some at St. John's and some at the Minster Schools. The schools were closed rather earlier than usual for the holidays, and no case notified until they were re-opened, when 6 cases were notified almost together and 4 more subsequently. These cases were due to infection from a child taken ill soon after the Minster School was closed. It was a mild case, and supposed by the parents to be measles. The child was only kept at home a few days, and sent to school when it was re-opened, and at once infected the other infants, and on examination was found to be peeling. Other cases have occurred where children have been found exposing themselves in the street while convalescing from mild unrecognised attacks; and moreover, many children living outside the Urban District attend the schools, and notice is not always given to the Schoolmaster when such children are ill. It is difficult to get a conviction when the parents plead ignorance, but a warning notice was issued by the Council and notice given that offenders would be prosecuted, and this had a good effect.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Wimborne (Urban)—continued.

One child was removed to Hospital, and where I think it advisable this is done, but as a rule it is unnecessary and even undesirable, and this is borne out by the fact that no second case has occurred in any house where the child has been kept at home.

Diphtheria.—The only case notified was imported. The patient was brought home from a neighbouring county, where she was being trained in an Institution. The patient was isolated, and no other case reported.

Your Council considered the notice from the Local Government Board giving power to provide a supply of Antitoxin to poor patients, and adopted it at my recommendation in part. You arranged for a supply to be constantly available for use, and supply free of cost to the Medical Men for the purpose of injection in any case of Diphtheria where the patient is too poor to pay for the same, but not as a prophylactic unless there is some special reason.

Antitoxin is the most valuable agent for the treatment of Diphtheria, and the case-mortality has been greatly reduced since its use has become general, but as Dr. Goodal has pointed out it should be used with great care and caution, as unpleasant and even dangerous symptoms sometimes follow its use, especially when it has been given as a prophylactic, and the person subsequently becomes attacked, for the immunising effect passes off after some days and then the second injection necessary is not so efficacious and often even harmful.

If when a case of diphtheria is recognised, a full dose of antitoxin is given at once, and an antiseptic gargle given to the patient, and the other inmates and contacts also use the gargle and take ordinary precautions, this will be quite as efficacious and less risky than the suggested prophylactic injection. I always found that the use of a strong solution of chlorine as a gargle and part to be swallowed would stop the spread of an outbreak, and unless there are unsanitary conditions or bad accommodation, removal to an Isolation Hospital is not necessary.

Diphtheria years ago was called a filth-disease, but when Loeffler discovered the Bacillus this idea became discredited, and now scientific men teach that bad sanitary conditions cannot account for any cases, but it must be contracted from a preceding case either directly or through some food as *e.g.*, milk. While I agree that the disease is spread by infection either by personal contact or infected milk, &c., if careful enquiry is made the first case can be traced back to some defective drainage or other unsanitary condition.

As Medical Officer of a sparsely populated Rural District, I have investigated many sporadic cases of diphtheria in isolated houses where no possible source of infection could be found, but invariably some special sanitary defect (a burst sewer, or a stirring up a heap of manure or foul closet) and often in these cases the disease was of a most virulent and rapidly fatal type. We know that certain diseases are caused by specific germs or bacilli, and the number is increasing still; but we know little or nothing about the life history or origin of these germs which must be widely distributed, or why or when they become active and cause tetanus, erysipelas or diphtheria, and as we know insanitary conditions and neglect of sanitary precautions and cleanliness generally accompany them, surely it is not unreasonable to believe that these germs are propagated and live in filth.

Phthisis.—The only cases were strangers coming in an advanced stage of the disease, and tubercular diseases are not numerous and much below the average.

Cancer.—There were four deaths from various forms of malignant disease, one of them a non-resident.

Water Supply.—The supply by the Company is ample, and although more houses have been connected there are still many using wells. The water is somewhat hard and I have advised the Company to attend to this.

Factories, Work Shops and Work Places.—These have been inspected and improvements effected and are in fair condition. They are only of the ordinary type.

Sewerage, Drainage and Scavenging.—The scavenging of the Town has been carried out efficiently, and the earth closets attended to regularly. The streets have been kept clean and in good order. The sewerage and drainage has been attended to, and improvements carried out, and new houses connected.

Isolation Hospital.—The arrangements with the neighbouring authorities continue to work well and meet all our requirements, and any case which in my opinion required removal has been moved at once.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The new act will entail a heavy amount of fresh work not only inspection and visiting but the keeping of books and forms. There is no special form approved by the Local Government Board, so we must choose our own. The housing generally is good, but as wages are low in the district there is a demand for houses at a low rent, and these are in some cases not up to the model standard.

Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds.—These have been inspected and are much improved. The dairies and cowsheds are in good order, and there is greater cleanliness and care in milking. The milkshops are clean and the milk satisfactory.

The drainage has been attended to where found not quite satisfactory.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Wimborne (Urban).—continued.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, and Common Lodging Houses.—These have been inspected from time to time and are well managed. The slaughter houses are kept clean and whitewashed at regular intervals, and although there is no regular Inspector appointed, a general supervision is exercised and the meat supply is of good quality only.

The bake-houses are fairly good : there are no underground bake-houses, and they are generally well kept.

The lodging-houses are well conducted and sufficient for ordinary requirements, but the increase of vagrants (some 300 in a fortnight) in this small town shows the urgency for legislation to deal with this growing evil.

General.—The returns for 1910 are again very satisfactory. The low death-rate and the high average age at death continues, and while the birth-rate continues very low, the infantile mortality is under 75 per 1,000.

The scarlet fever cases were very mild and difficult to trace : doubtless there were unrecognized cases which spread the infection, while there were epidemics of the non-notifiable zymotics. These are often looked upon as inevitable, and when one child in a family is attacked there is an idea that it is better to get it over once for all, and the other children are exposed to infection. This is to be regretted, for some of these diseases (*e.g.*, measles and whooping cough) have a case mortality equal to and even greater than scarlet fever, and are often followed by serious diseases, and notification of the first case in a family would be useful if not by cutting short an outbreak, at any rate by teaching parents not to treat these diseases lightly.

The Census will, I think, show the population has increased. It is difficult to estimate the population after ten years, and no doubt the time is coming when it will be taken at least every five years, and this is necessary if we are to get reliable statistics.

In conclusion, I must again call attention to the new houses building just outside the Urban area, and the necessity for great care in the drainage not to pollute the water supply of the Company close by.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Beaminster—Mr. F. P. Kitson.

Area.—The area of the Rural District of Beaminster is 57,017 acres.

Population.—The population at the last Census was 9,184; the population to the middle of the year is estimated at 9,150. Beaminster is a residential and agricultural district and has no industries other than agriculture.

Birth-rate.—The Birth-rate is 21·5 per 1,000 population. The rate last year was 18·8, and the average rate for the last ten years is 21·9. The number of births registered during the year was 197, against 172 in 1909.

The number and sexes in the different districts were :—

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Beaminster	..	..	35	26	61
Netherbury	..	..	27	22	49
Mosterton	..	..	6	7	13
Evershot	..	..	20	22	42
Thorncombe	..	..	11	21	32
			99	98	197

Death-rate.—The Death-rate is 12·7 per 1,000 population, this is the same rate as last year. There was one death less this year, 116 as compared with 117 in 1909. There were 12 deaths under one year of age, 55 persons had reached the age of 65 and upwards. The largest number of deaths from one disease is nine from Tubercular Diseases of the lungs. There were seven deaths from each of the following:—Heart Disease, Bronchitis and Cancer. Three deaths were caused by Whooping Cough and two by Influenza. There were no deaths from any other infectious disease.

The average age at death is 51.

The number of deaths in the districts were :—

			Under 1 year.	65 and over.	Total deaths.
Beaminster	..	..	6	17	37
Netherbury	..	..	1	22	42
Evershot	..	..	2	11	20
Mosterton	..	..	0	2	4
Thorncombe	..	..	3	3	13
			12	55	116

There were two deaths in the Union House.

Infant Mortality.—The Infant Mortality is 60·9 per 1,000 births registered. Last year the rate was 64·5 and the average for the ten years 79·7.

Zymotic Death-rate.—The Zymotic death-rate from the seven principal infectious diseases is Nil. The rate for all infectious diseases is ·3 per 1,000 population.

Prevalence of Disease.—The number of notifications of infectious diseases received during the year was 24—11 cases of Scarlet Fever, 8 of Diphtheria, 4 of Erysipelas, and 1 of Phthisis; nearly all the cases occurred in the first and last quarter of the year.

January 5—Diphtheria 3, Scarlet Fever 1, Erysipelas 1.
 February 5—Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 4.
 March 2—Scarlet Fever 2.
 April 1—Diphtheria 1.
 May 4—Diphtheria 1, Scarlet Fever 1, Erysipelas 2.
 June 1—Phthisis 1.
 September 1—Scarlet Fever 1.
 November 2—Scarlet Fever 1, Erysipelas 1.
 December 3—Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 2.

There has been a great deal of infectious disease among children of school age. Epidemics have necessitated the closing of the following Schools :—

Rampisham	..	January	..	Whooping Cough.
South Perrott	..	February	..	Scarlet Fever.
Beaminster	..	April	.	Whooping Cough.
Salway Ash	..	April	..	Measles.
Melplash	..	May	..	Whooping Cough.
Mapperton	..	May	..	Whooping Cough.
Evershot	..	June	..	Whooping Cough.
Bettiscombe	..	July	..	{ Whooping Cough. Measles.
Corscombe	..	September	..	Whooping Cough.
Marshwood	..	September	..	Measles.
Chedington	..	October	..	Mumps.
Netherbury	..	October	..	Whooping Cough.
Bettiscombe	..	December	..	Chicken Pox.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply to the District is in much the same condition as last year. About 20 additional houses in Beaminster have been supplied from the public supply during the year, and three other supplies have been provided in other parts of the District.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The old stone sewer through a portion of the village of Netherbury has been relaid with stone ware socket pipe. The water course in Hogshill Street, Beaminster, has been re-laid with socket pipe, and a portion of the sewer in the village of Mosterton has been cleaned out and repaired. The condition of the sewer in the village of Evershot is in an unsatisfactory condition and is at present receiving attention.

Slaughter Houses—The Slaughter Houses in the District are all private property. All are well conducted and have good supplies of water.

Isolation Hospital.—The arrangements with Bridport Rural Council as to the use of their Isolation Hospital still continue. One case has been removed there for treatment during the year.

Housing of Working Classes.—The conditions of the District with regard to housing are much the same as last year. No cases of over-crowding have been dealt with, for where over-crowding does exist it is impossible to take any effective steps to prevent it. There are great difficulties in finding adequate accommodation for large families, and the difficulty increases, if, as is often the case, the family is an undesirable one, the result being that many of the worst houses are occupied by large and unhealthy families.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—The Dairies and Milkshops are generally good and well looked after, the principal fault is the length of time that accumulations of manure are allowed to remain close to cowstalls, affording a swarming place for flies and a possible cause of contamination of milk. One cow has been reported as suffering from Tubercular Disease of the udder by the Veterinary Inspector of the London County Council. The milk after being boiled has been used for feeding calves and no milk has been sold.

Bake-houses.—The Bake-houses have been inspected and are all satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses.—There is no Common Lodging House in the District.

Health of District.—The health of the District has been satisfactory during the year. There has been no epidemic of any of the principal infectious diseases, and in many of the isolated cases that have occurred the disease has been introduced from outside. Again this year, as was the case last year, there have been widespread epidemics of other infectious disease, the epidemics are little if at all affected by School closure, and occur principally among children of school age. In many cases children are allowed to attend School during the incubation stage, or even after the symptoms of the disease have developed, with the result that the whole School is infected. I consider that the exclusion from School of all children evidently unwell would check the spread of these diseases, and the closing of the Schools would be, if not unnecessary, at any rate, much less frequent.

Midwives.—The number of Midwives on the Register during the year was 10. There has been no case of Puerperal Fever during the year and only one death from any disease or accident of Parturition. Out of 197 births during the year, the nurses have attended about a quarter of the cases. In no case has it been necessary for any of them to obtain medical assistance owing to any septic condition. All the nurses are provided with the necessary bags and instruments except three, these three are registered under the Act owing to the fact that they were practising as Midwives before the passing of the Act. One is no longer on the register, another does not attend cases without a medical man, and the third has been advised to get the necessary outfit.

Factory Act.—There is one factory in the District, and I have received one list of out-workers. Ten certificates of fitness for employment in factories and workshops have been given during the year and one rejection. There have been three slight accidents and one case of lead poisoning.

Rainfall.—The Rainfall for the year was 45.16 inches, which is more than seven inches above the average.

Temperature.—The average maximum Temperature of the year was 56 degrees, minimum 41.5. Mean temperature was 48.6. The daily range was 14.5.

Rain fell on 212 days.

Blandford—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

The Area of the District is 61·568 acres.

The Population (Census 1901) is 8,808, and estimated to the middle of 1910, it is 8,815.

Births.—There were 165 Births. The *Birth-rate* is 18·6.

Deaths.—There were 102 deaths. The *Death-rate* is 11·5.

The Rate of Infantile Mortality is 90·9.

The Zymotic Mortality is nil.

The Average Age at Death is 51·3.

The Average Number of Persons per House is 4·2. There were six Illegitimate Births.

3 persons died aged over 90 years.
12 " " between 80 and 90 years.
23 " " " 70 and 80 "
6 " " " 65 and 70 "

Eight persons died in the Workhouse and four in the Cottage Hospital, who belonged to this district. By adding these twelve deaths to the original number (102), the corrected death-rate is 12·9.

The ages at which death took place are :—

AGE				NUMBER
Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	15
1 year and under 5	..	..	..	3
5 years " 15	..	..	..	4
15 " " 25	..	..	..	2
25 " " 65	..	..	..	32
65 and upwards	..	..	..	46
				102

The Mortality from all cases has been :—

Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	1
Phthisis	..	..	..	7
Other Tubercular Disease	..	..	..	1
Cancer	..	..	..	10
Bronchitis	..	..	..	7
Pneumonia	..	..	..	5
Premature Birth	..	..	..	3
Heart Diseases	..	..	..	23
Accidents	..	..	..	3
Suicide	..	..	..	1
All other Causes	..	..	..	40
				102

The Birth-rate is slightly lower. The Death-rate, as well as the rate of Infantile Mortality, are both slightly higher.

The following gives the ages of the 15 infants who died under one year of age :—

5 lived less than 1 week
1 " between 2 and 3 weeks
1 " " 3 " 4 "
4 " " 1 " 2 months
1 " " 3 " 4 "
3 " " 4 " 5 "

The causes of Death being given :—

Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	3
Enteritis	..	..	..	1
Congenital Defects	..	..	..	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	1
Jaundice	..	..	..	1
Inanition	..	..	..	2
Suffocation being overlaid	..	..	..	1
Improper Feeding	..	..	..	1

I received 13 notifications of infectious diseases in the year—all of Scarlatina—in the following parishes :—

Blandford St. Mary	..	..	3
Charlton Marshall	..	..	5
Langton	..	..	2
Tarrant Keyneston	..	..	1
Winterborne Kingstou	..	..	2

I also received notification of a case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis at Hilton.

Twelve cases of Scarlatina were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Scarlatina was imported into the village of Charlton Marshall last year, when numerous cases of the malady were spread about the neighbourhood. The disease has appeared from time to time ever since, but of late there is evidence that it is disappearing.

Water Supply.—As I have stated in former reports the water supply for the district is almost entirely derived from wells, and as the wells are usually sufficiently removed from possible sources of contamination, the quality of the water is rarely in fault. Bryanston and Blandford St. Mary, however, have the water laid on from the Blandford Water Works.

The excrement disposal in the absence of water closets is almost invariably by the pail and dry earth system.

The Isolation Hospital, built for the use of this district as well as the Borough of Blandford, is still of the greatest benefit to both, and no doubt has been the means of preventing the existence of more numerous cases of Scarlatina. The Hospital is provided with a Steam Disinfecter and was enlarged in the year by the kindness of Lord Portman.

Housing of the Working Classes.—By the means of the Bye-laws issued by your Council, a much better class of Cottage has been erected in the district than formerly was the case, and consequently no more cottages with only two bedrooms can now be built. In the last ten years some excellent dwellings have been erected in various localities. Unfortunately, however, there are a large number possessing only two bedrooms. I condemned three Cottages in the district as being unfit for human habitation, and since doing so, two of them have been put into thorough repair.

The Dairies and Cowsheds generally are fairly good, some excellent.

The slaughter-houses as well as the bake-houses are all good.

This locality being purely agricultural has no factories nor workshops otherwise than on a very small scale.

There is no Common Lodging House in the district.

Bridport—Mr. W. A. E. Hay

Area of District.—30,899 acres.

Population.—Census (1901), 6998. Estimated to middle of 1910, 7,000.

Births Registered.—117, equal to a rate of 16·7 per 1,000.

Deaths Registered.—87, equal to a rate of 12·4 per 1,000.

Average age at death, 56·89 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality, 76·9 per 1,000.

Zymotic Rate.—One death was registered from Diphtheria, but it took place in the Urban District Hospital, which is situated just within the Rural District. It had been removed from the Borough of Bridport. Excluding this the Zymotic Rate was nil.

The Notification of Births Act, 1909, has not been adopted in the district, but my knowledge of the district has enabled me to take due measures with the object of reducing the Infantile Mortality.

Prevalence of Disease.—*Notification.*—Glanders, Anthrax, and Hydrophobia in man are notifiable in the district.

10 Cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year. The cases notified were :—Diphtheria 7, Scarlet Fever 1, Erysipelas 2.

As regards the cases of Diphtheria one occurred on June the 15th, at Lynch Hill, Allington; it was contracted at the Salwayash School, in the Beaminster District. It was at once removed to the Rural Isolation Hospital. The next case was that of an Adult, a servant girl at the Rectory, Symondsbury, on September the 2nd. It was no doubt imported from without the village. There was ample means for isolation and treatment at home, so the case was not removed, but as this was the first case notified in the Village it rather points as to the primary cause of the other cases which soon followed after in the Parish, and who had all attended the Elementary School at Symondsbury. The next case was at Moorbath, Symondsbury. There were also here ample means for isolation and treatment, and the case remained at home; this was notified on September 5th. Another case occurred at Vearse Dairy House, and was notified on September 13th. As it was in a Dairy House it was at once removed to your Rural Isolation Hospital. Another at Broadoak, Symondsbury, on September the 24th, was at once removed to your Isolation Hospital. The next case was notified in the village of Symondsbury on September the 30th, and was at once removed to the Rural Isolation Hospital.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Bridport (Rural)—continued.

As all these Cases had attended the Symondsbury School it appeared to be a focus, so as a precaution on September 26th I examined the throats of all the children (100) attending on that day. I found no Membrane on any but in the case of three children who had sore throats. (As suspects) I ordered them not to attend School before seeing me again.

In view of removing both Dust and Infection I advised thorough washing of Class and Cloak Rooms, some Liquid Disinfectants being sprinkled over the floor before the sweeping out.

The last case of Diphtheria notified was that of an Adult at the Mount, Burton Bradstock, on December 12th. It was clearly proved to have been contracted outside the District. The case remained at home as there was ample means for Isolation and treatment. The case of scarlet fever occurred at Bothenhampton on June the 15th, and was at once removed to the Rural Isolation Hospital. The two cases of Erysipelas were Idiopathic and require no comment.

Tuberculosis.—The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, Form B, is in force (this only applies to Parish Cases). No notification has been received.

There is no Hospital Accommodation for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis for advanced and earlier cases of the Disease anywhere near the District. There is dire necessity for a Consumption Sanatorium for the treatment of these Cases, as in the district in many cases it is impossible to separate the patient from the rest of the family, and even in some cases have to sleep in the same bedroom, which is an immediate danger to the rest of the family and other neighbours. I trust that the proposed County Memorial to King Edward will take the form of a Consumption Sanatorium that will be available for all parts of the County and for those who can pay nothing or very little.

Schools.—The Water Supply is good and sufficient. The Medical Inspection of the Children in the Elementary Schools is undertaken by the School Medical Officer of the Dorset County Council. There was Closure of the following Schools during the year. For Measles:—Bradpole-Pymore School from April 4th to 30th of May, Bothenhampton School from April 25th to 23rd May, Symondsbury School from April 25th to 23rd of May. For Whooping Cough:—Swyre School from October 10th to November 7th, Stanton St Gabriel School from October 17th to November 4th.

Water Supply.—The Annual Analysis of the Water from the Chideock and Charmouth Supplies proved them excellent for dietetic use.

The Water Supply for Charmouth is still insufficient for the Summer Months when the Village is full of visitors, but means are being taken to obtain an increased supply, and I hope by the Summer of 1911 an adequate one will be obtained.

An Analysis of Water was taken in two cases, one proved satisfactory and a Certificate was granted. The other at Bucketts Farm was shown to be unsafe. As it appears impossible to obtain any good water within reach of this Farm I suggest that Rain Water should be utilized. The same difficulty in getting good water applies to New House Farm close by.

Sewerage—Drainage—Excrement Disposal.—*Charmouth Drainage.*—On November the 23rd P. H. Crosthwaite, Esq., Local Government Inspector, after having conferred with the Council, visited Charmouth, and reported to the Local Government Board; as a result any further scheme of drainage was postponed. Defective Drainage, House Drainage, and the disposal of Sewerage in localities where improvements are needed are reported by myself and the Sanitary Inspector at your Monthly Meetings, and I append a summary of the work carried out.

Excrement disposal, by water closets, earth closets and privies; the removal and disposal of house refuse is carried out by the occupiers.

Isolation Hospital.—Six Cases were admitted during the year—five from the Bridport Rural District and one from the Beaminster Rural District. Everything is in excellent order.

Means for Disinfection.—Disinfection of houses, rooms and premises is carried out under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Bedding, clothes, etc., sent to the Disinfecting Oven at the Isolation Hospital.

Housing of the Working Classes.—There is a great necessity for more cottages in some parts of the district, as in some cases the Cottages have only two bedrooms, and it is impossible to prevent overcrowding. One prosecution has taken place, but if this was pressed to any extent many families would be left without a roof over their heads.

There are no Registered Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops.—Cows are not wholly housed in the district, and are in open fields for parts of the day, and wholly in the summer time. As regards the dairies, cowsheds and milk-shops, their administration comes under your bye-laws, and their condition is reported by myself and your Sanitary Inspector at your Monthly Meetings.

No tuberculous milk has come to my notice, and I have had no complaints as to the character and wholesomeness of the milk produced or imported, but I should like to see some of the cows kept more clean and the people who milk them have more regard as to cleanliness.

Slaughter-houses.—There are 8 slaughter-houses scattered about the district. On being inspected by myself and Sanitary Inspector they were all found to be kept in a cleanly manner.

No carcasses or parts of carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis. I have not been called upon to examine any animal or article of diet that was unwholesome, diseased, or unfit for the food of man.

There are no offensive processes of trade carried on in the district.

Work-shops and Work-places.—A Register is kept. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890 is not in force in the district, but they were all in a satisfactory condition and I found nothing to complain of.

The Bakehouses were all inspected and their sanitary condition found satisfactory. There are no underground ones.

Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901.—The Factories on inspection were found, as far as the administration is in the hands of the Council, in every way satisfactory.

Midwives' Act.—There are 10 Registered Midwives practising in the district who are under the direct administration of the Council, and in carrying out the duties required by the Act, I have found it so far satisfactory.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.—Regarding the Circular received from the Local Government Board, dated September the 2nd, 1910, the supervision over erection of new houses is under the administration of the Council, and I have commenced giving you records of my inspections at your Monthly Meetings, viz., Shipton Gorge, Morecombelake, and Puncknowle.

Imported Labour.—There is no imported labour for hop, fruit, and potato digging.

The Sanitary Inspector has brought to my notice matters requiring my intervention, and when required has given me assistance in making systematic inspections.

Tabular Statements of Sickness and Mortality in the district are given.

Cerne—Mr. Ernest E. Dalton.

Area.—The Area of the district (exclusive of area covered with water) is 46,724 acres.

Population.—At the Census (1901) was 5,064, and estimated to the middle of the year 1910 was 4,360.

Birth-rate.—The number of Births registered for the year was 79, 42 being males and 37 females, giving a birth-rate of 18·1 per 1,000 population. This is the lowest rate for any year during the previous ten, and the average rate for the past ten years was 22·9.

Death-rate.—Fifty-eight deaths occurred in the district during the year, 36 male and 22 female, giving a death-rate of 13·3 per 1,000 population. The average rate for the previous ten years was 13·6.

The ages at which death occurred were as follows :—

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	8
1 and under 5 years	..	..	..	1
5 " 15 "	..	..	..	2
15 " 25 "	..	..	..	0
25 " 65 "	..	..	..	18
65 and over	..	..	..	29
				—
				58
				—

The average age at death of those who died was 54·4, as against 52·7 of the previous year.

Of those over 65 years of age who died, 24 were over 70, 11 over 80 and 1 over 90.

The causes of death as certified were as follows :—

Whooping Cough	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	2
Enteritis and Gastritis	..	..	2
Phthisis	..	..	2
Tuberculosis	..	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	1
Bronchitis	..	..	3
Heart Disease	..	..	6
Cancer	..	..	3
Infantile Paralysis	..	..	2
Convulsions	..	..	2
Premature Births	..	..	1
Senile Decay	..	..	21
Suicide	..	..	1
All other diseases	..	..	10
			—
			58
			—

Zymotic Disease.—One death occurred under this head of an infant six months' old from whooping Cough, making a death-rate of ·22 per 1,000 living, as against nil of the previous two years.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Cerne (Rural)—continued.

Infantile Mortality.—Eight children under one year of age died during the year, giving the death-rate of 101·2 per 1,000 births registered, as against 40·4 for the previous year. There were no deaths of illegitimate children during the year.

Pervallence of Disease : Notification.—Only seven cases of notifiable disease occurred in the district during the year. All these were of erysipelas and call for no remarks.

Poliomyelitis Epidemic (Infantile Paralysis.)—During the last three weeks of October this disease occurred in an epidemic form, with the exception of one case, in one of two isolated cottages on the hills. It was confined to the villages of Cerne Abbas and Up-Cerne. Altogether there were 16 cases with two deaths. You at once appointed a Local Committee to act with me in taking any steps I considered necessary and there is no doubt that the prompt measures taken in isolation and disinfection of premises and possible carriers were the means of at once checking the further spread of the disease, both locally and to other parts of the district. Of this disease, hitherto almost unknown to us in an epidemic form, there were at about the same time several small outbreaks in various parts of England, and information shows that from the number of children now undergoing treatment for Paralysis in our general and other Hospitals, the disease is probably far more widely spread than is generally recognised. It very nearly resembles in nature Cerebro Spinal Fever, but Dr. Farrar, the Local Government Board Inspector, who was sent to enquire into the nature of the epidemic, agreed with me that it was not that, but a true Poliomyelitis. I could not in the least trace the cause, which was evidently not due to any local conditions, but the fact that the disease had been raging in America points to its being possibly imported in some food stuff, etc.

Schools.—During the year I had to advise the closing of the following Schools:—

- 1 *Chesilborne*—From the 28th February to the 14th March for Chicken Pox.
- 2 *Cerne Abbas*.—Closed from the 7th October to the 14th November for Epidemic Poliomyelitis.
- 3 *Cattistock*.—Closed from the 24th October to the 7th of November for Mumps.

Water Supplies.—The Water Supply is much the same as in the previous year, and is fairly satisfactory. I have taken and had handed to me by your Inspector samples for analysis. If any of these have been of doubtful quality, steps have been taken to remedy the trouble.

Housing of Working Classes.—This shows a gradual improvement, and taking the district generally is fairly satisfactory. During the year three dwellings have been closed as not fit for habitation and five cases of overcrowding are being dealt with.

Isolation Hospital (Means for Disinfection, &c.)—This is situated at Cerne Abbas, which is about the centre of your district. It was provided in October and gives accommodation for six beds and Nurses' rooms, with a disinfecting room for clothing, etc., adjacent, to be used for pauper cases.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, &c.—Many inspections have been made and much improvement caused, but there is still a great deal to be done in connection with cowsheds.

Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Common Lodging-houses.—The latter in an agricultural district do not affect us. The slaughter-houses and bake-houses have been duly inspected and are in a very fair condition.

Factories and Workshops.—These Acts do not much affect us, being almost a purely agricultural district. Anything coming under their provisions are attended to and are satisfactory.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—Since the Local Government Board issued their Order and Regulations made under Section 17 (1), progress has been made to carry out the same, and I hereto append a tabular form in regard to the inspections done in your district.

Number of Dwelling Houses Inspected	130
Number of Dwelling Houses considered dangerous to health and unfit for human habitation	12
Number of Representations made with a view to make Closing Orders	4
Number of Closing Orders made	nil
Number of Dwelling Houses, the defects of which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders	9
Number of Dwelling Houses, which after the making of Closing Orders were put in a fit state for human habitation	No Closing Order made
General character of the Defects found to exist	Want of repair owing to age of the dwellings and materials used in their construction, it is difficult to maintain them in a good condition, and their defects are due to this.

In conclusion I would wish to congratulate you upon the providing of an Isolation Hospital, and to advise that with the possibility of Cerebro-Spinal Fever and Epidemic Poliomyelitis occurring in England, you should make these diseases notifiable in your district, as I feel sure that much can be done to prevent their spread, by prompt measures being taken.

Dorchester (Eastern)—Dr. E. J. Day.

Acreage.—It contains 30,307 acres.

Population.—This was 3982 at the last Census, 1901, with 924 houses, each containing on an average 4 people. Since then many houses have been built, which probably brings the population over 4,000; considering the excess of births over deaths, I have estimated the population to be 4154.

Births.—The total number of births registered is 71, (against 76 in 1909, 77 in 1908, 61 in 1907, 84 in 1906, 95 in 1905, 73 in 1904, 95 in 1903, 61 in 1902, 86 in 1901, 110 in 1900, and 133 in 1899). The births have therefore decreased nearly 50 per cent. since 1899.

The birth-rate is 17 per 1000 against 19 in 1909, and 19.2 in 1908. The rate for England and Wales was 24.8 per 1000 (which is .8 per 1000 below the rate in 1909, and lower than the rate in any other year on record; compared with the average in the ten years 1900-1909, the birth-rate in 1910, that is for England and Wales, showed a decrease of 2.7 per 1000). The birth-rate of this Division decreased last year 2 per 1000.

Deaths.—Total Deaths registered 37, to these must be added 8 which occurred outside this Division, though belonging thereto, making 45. This gives a death-rate of 10.8 per 1000 against 11.7 per 1000 in 1909. The death-rate for England and Wales is 13.4 per 1000 (which was 1.1 per 1000 below the rate in 1909, and lower than the rate in any other year on record; compared with the average rate in the ten years 1900-1909, the Death-rate of England and Wales showed in 1910 a decrease of 2.4 per 1000.

The death-rate since my appointment is as follows:—

1878, 17.4	1879, 22.2	1880, 17.2	1881, 15.4
1882, 15	1883, 16.4	1884, 12.4	1885, 16.5
1886, 15.8	1887, 14.8	1888, 17	1889, 10.9
1890, 10.8	1891, 12.6	1892, 14.2	1893, 11.6
1894, 11.8	1895, 13.8	1896, 14.3	1897, 13.6
1898, 9.6	1899, 12.4	1900, 10.1	1901, 14.1
1902, 17	1903, 11.4	1904, 9	1905, 15.5
1906, 12.2	1907, 12.5	1908, 9.5	1909, 11.7
1910, 10.8			

The average death-rate for the first ten years was 16.3, and for the last ten years 12.3, that for the first three years was 18.9, and for the last three years 10.6, this is indeed most satisfactory.

Since October, 1910, the Rural Sanitary Authority have combined the Western with this Eastern Division, if therefore the deaths in both Divisions be added together, and the two populations, the death-rate for the whole Rural District of Dorchester stands in the proud position of having by far the lowest death-rate of all the 12 Rural Districts in the County of Dorset, not only as regards the general death-rate but also the Cancer death-rate, as is shown further on in this Report.

Dorchester	..	9.3 per 1000
Sherborne	..	10.4 "
Blandford	..	10.7 "
Wimborne	..	10.7 "
Poole	..	11.7 "
Sturminster Newton	..	11.7 "
Cerne	..	12.9 "
Beaminster	..	13 "
Shaftesbury	..	13.1 "
Bridport	..	13.3 "
Wareham	..	13.3 "
Weymouth	..	14 "

Causes of Death.—The chief causes of death were:—Heart Disease 10, Cancer 7, Phthisis 3.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death was 62 against 47 in 1909, 48 in 1908, 58 in 1907, 54 in 1906, 52 in 1905, 48 in 1904 and in 1903, 46 in 1902 and 44 in 1901.

Zymotic Death-rate.—This again is nil, as it was in the two previous years—indeed, there was not even a notification of a Zymotic Disease.

Infant Mortality.—The rate of Infant Mortality (measured by the number of deaths under one year of age per 1000 births) was only 14 against 92 in 1909, 77 in 1908, 32 in 1907. In England and Wales less the 213 towns the rate was 96, and for England and Wales as a whole in 1910 it was 115. It is most satisfactory thus to have to record the death of only one infant during the year in the whole of this Division—comprising 17 villages—and that one died of malformation.

Child Mortality.—The Child Mortality measured by the number of deaths between one and five years of age was 28 per 1000 births, one child having died from whooping cough and one from convulsions.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Dorchester, Eastern (Rural)—continued.

Phthisis.—There were only three deaths from consumption, if these are added to the four deaths in the Western Division, and the calculation made on the total population of these two Divisions, it will be seen that the death-rate from Phthisis for the whole of the Rural District is '68 per 1000, this compares very favourably with the other eleven Rural Districts in the County of Dorset, as is shewn in the following table :

	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Number of Deaths</i>	<i>Rate per 1000.</i>
Poole ..	5550	1	18
Blandford ..	8820	5	56
Bridport ..	6900	4	58
Beaminster ..	9150	6	65
Cerne ..	4410	3	68
Dorchester ..	10303	7	
Shaftesbury ..	11258	7	
Sherborne ..	6147	5	
Wimborne ..	13600	11	81
Wareham ..	10500	9	
Sturminster Newton ..	8621	8	92
Weymouth ..	7884	10	12

The Consumption death-rate in this Division was exactly the same as in the previous year ('75 per 1000), no notification under the Tuberculosis Regulations 1908 has been received.

Cancer.—No less than 30,000 die every year from cancer in England and Wales—in other words 1 in every 11 males over 35 years of age dies of cancer, and 1 in every 7 females above 35 years of age succumbs to this disease.

In the ten years 1891-1900 the cancer death-rate was 750 per million, this was 25 per cent. higher than it was in the preceding decennium. From the year 1850 to the present time it has been on the persistent increase—females suffering more severely than males—the death-rate amongst males has trebled, and amongst females it has doubled; of course this is in part due to the advance in knowledge, better diagnoses, more post mortems, &c. Haviland thought that parasites in soils composed chiefly of clay, and low lying damp localities such as the Thames valley for instance were the causes of the disease, but D'Arcy Power's experiments do not bear out this supposition.

During the ten years 1891-1900 the four highest death-rates from cancer were :

London ..	2759	per million
Huntingdonshire ..	2682	"
North Wales ..	2477	"
Northumberland ..	2450	"

and the four lowest were :

Dorsetshire ...	2024	"
Buckinghamshire ..	1995	"
Wiltshire ..	1996	"
Monmouthshire ..	1874	"

compared with the above, the 12 Rural Districts of Dorset work out for 1909 thus :—

	<i>Number of Deaths.</i>	<i>Rate per Million.</i>
Dorchester ..	4	410
Cerne ..	3	680
Shaftesbury ..	8	710
Blandford ..	7	790
Wareham ..	9	850
Beaminster ..	9	980
Sherborne ..	7	1100
Sturminster Newton ..	9	1100
Poole ..	7	1200
Weymouth ..	10	1200
Wimborne ..	18	1300
Bridport ..	12	1700

This is very satisfactory—only 4 cases. The houses are disinfected after deaths from this disease. Since the Imperial Cancer Research Fund was instituted in 1902, over 10,000 cases have been investigated without finding the cause, but much knowledge has been gained. We must hope the cause and "cure" will not be unknown many years longer. It is ubiquitous in vertebrate animals and man, and it is known that the cancer of mice cannot be transmitted to dogs nor that of dogs to mice. At present no antitoxin nor vaccine has been found to be of much use—in many cases the best results are due to operations.

The following table shows how very favourably again this Division compares with two previous years, and with England and Wales minus the towns :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Chief Zymotic Diseases Col. 4-10.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births.
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
England and Wales, 1910	24·8	13·4	·99	..	·23	·06	·12	·24	·05	·29	106
Ditto minus the towns	25	12·8	·74	..	·15	·05	·12	·17	·05	·2	96
This Division, 1908	19·2	9·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
This Division, 1909	19	11·7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	92
This Division, 1910	17	10·8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

Infectious Disease.—Not one single notification was received against 27 in 1909. 21 in 1908, and 20 in 1907.

Serum.—The medical men practising in this Division are supplied with it free of cost by the Sanitary Authority.

Water Supply.—As is frequently the case in rural Districts the wells are in many instances shallow. When there is any doubt about the quality of the water in a well an analysis is obtained without delay, those drinking it being in the meantime instructed not to use it. The whole Division is and has been for some years perfectly free from any suspicion of typhoid fever.

Factory Act.—During the the year 40 inspections have been made under the Factory Act, 1901, and eleven written notices have been sent, but it has not been found necessary to prosecute anyone. Under the Public Health Acts four cases of want of cleanliness were abated, besides two other nuisances, without the necessity of prosecution under these acts. Nothing had to be referred to H.M. Inspector, and he had no occasion to notify us of anything. As regards homework we have no outworkers. The number of workshops on the register is 25

Bakehouses and Dairies—Frequent visits have been paid to the bakehouses, (there are no underground ones) and dairies, and they have been regularly whitewashed. It has been found necessary to caution the dairy workers, and to explain to them the great necessity of extreme cleanliness in milking. There is certainly some improvement, but room for much more.

Houses of the Working Classes.—Although we have not had any cases of overcrowding, in my opinion it would be very desirable if more cottages were built, many are thatched, and frequently they are found to be damp, especially the bedrooms. We have frequently to call the attention of the owners to this dampness, and there is often delay in getting them repaired.

Town Planning Act.—Between October and December, 117 inspections have been made. Seven statutory notices had to be given before the defects were remedied. The Sanitary Inspector is making a house to house inspection of the whole district, this of course will take a long time to do, sometimes with me.

Slaughter houses.—The two slaughterhouses have been only inspected, both at the time of slaughtering and at other times, but nothing has been found on the premises unfit for food. In reply to the Local Government Board's inquiry, I have to say that although it would be desirable to have the services of a veterinary surgeon to examine the dairy cows nothing has been arranged, we have not had to deal with a case of a Tuberculous cow.

Fruit, &c.—The fruit and peas grown in this Division have not necessitated the importation of any labour; no hops are grown.

School Closure.—Tolpuddle School was closed from April 6th to May 2nd, on account of whooping cough. West Knighton School from April 11th to May 2nd, owing to mumps, and Puddletown School from May 10th to 30th, because many children were then suffering from chicken pox.

Anthrax, &c.—There have been no cases of anthrax, nor glanders. It has not been found necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Food and Drugs Act.

Notification of Births.—This Act of 1907 is not in force.

There are no common lodging-houses in this Division.

MATTERS FOR CONGRATULATION.

1. Not a single notification of any infectious notifiable disease.
2. Rate of infant mortality very greatly reduced from 92 to 14 per 1000 births—(England and Wales 115)
3. Very much lower death-rate from cancer than all the other 12 rural districts in the County (when both divisions of this district are reckoned).
4. Average age at death greatly raised—from 47 to 62.
5. Extremely low death-rate—only 10·8 per 1000 (England and Wales 13·4)—(when the two divisions of this district are reckoned this rural district has by far the lowest death-rate of all the 12 rural districts in the County of Dorset.)

Dorchester (Western)—Mr. R. B. Dawson (*January to September*).

Area of division 38,648 acres exclusive of area covered by water.

Population.—1901 census, 5,497, and estimated to middle of 1910, 6339.

Number of inhabited houses Census, 1901, 1073. Average number of persons per house, 5.

Births.—The births registered were 75, giving a birth-rate of 11·8 per 1000. The average birth-rate of the ten preceding years being 16·7

Deaths.—The deaths registered were 99, of which 60 occurred in the County Asylum, in Charminster Parish, amongst persons not belonging to this division.

The death-rate of the total number registered is 15·6, excluding these 60 deaths in the County Asylum, the remaining 39 deaths show a death-rate of 6·1 per 1000. The average age at death was 57 against 53 in 1909.

Zymotic Death-rate was nil.

The causes of the 39 deaths were as follows :—

Heart Disease	5 cases
Pneumonia	5 „
Cancer	2 „
Bronchitis	2 „
Premature birth	1 „
Phthisis	1 „
Other causes	23 „

Infantile Death-rate was 26·6 per 1000 births, only two deaths having occurred under one year of age. The six cases notified were as follows :—

<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	
Compton Valence	2 cases
Toller Porcorum	1 „
Chilfrome	1 „

<i>Diphtheria.</i>	
Charminster	1 case

<i>Enteric Fever.</i>	
Chilfrome	1 case

School Closing.—Bradford Peverell School was closed on account of chicken pox, from Jan. 13th to 31st.

The Water Supply is the same as in previous years.

The dairies, cowsheds, milkshops, slaughter houses and bakehouses have all been inspected and found in a fairly healthy condition.

Details of the sanitary work done, is appended in tabular form. It was not found necessary to take any legal proceedings.

There were no cases of anthrax, hydrophobia, or glanders.

As regards the working of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, 8 inspections of factories have been made during the nine months, and 9 inspections of Workshops, but it was only found necessary to send one written notice. There were no prosecutions. One case of want of cleanliness was found and remedied, and one other notice was also abated. There are no outworkers in this Division.

Dorchester (Western)—Dr. E. J. Day (*October to December*).

Area.—There are 38,648 acres exclusive of area covered by water.

Population.—When the last census was taken in 1901, it was 5,497. By excess of births over deaths since that time it has amounted to 6316, on which figure the birth and other rates have been calculated, yet it is most probable that this figure is a little too high as no allowance has been made for emigration and for young fellows seeking employment in towns. The number of inhabited houses was then 1073, and the average number of persons in a house was five.

Births.—The total number of births registered was 23, equivalent to an annual rate of 14·5 per 1000, against 12·3 in 1909, the average rate for the preceding 10 years being 16·7.

Deaths.—The total deaths registered was 26, but 16 were non-residents, consequently the ten deaths in the quarter, October to December, would equal an annual deathrate of 6·3, at which extremely low figure it cannot be expected to remain.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death was 55, against 47 in 1909, and 53 in 1908.

Zymotic Death-rate.—This was “nil,” as the 3 typhoid deaths were non-residents.

Infantile Deathrate.—One child died under one year of age; equal to an annual rate of 43 per 1000 births. From a sanitary point of view none of the ten deaths of residents were preventable, one only deserves notice, a death from cancer; but having enlarged on this subject in my report on the Eastern Division reference can be made to it there. Next year, of course, it will be my duty to report on these two divisions together, forming the whole of the rural district.

Typhoid.—By far the most important matter was the deaths of 3 inmates of the County Asylum from typhoid fever. A report thereon was sent you, and the Local Government Board, immediately they came under my notice. So far the cause remains in obscurity, notwithstanding that every endeavour has been made, both by the Sanitary Authority and the Asylum Committee. The analysis of the water and the milk were satisfactory, no bacteria were found in either to account for it. The drainage also at the institution was as it should be. One can only conclude that these must have been cases of “Paratyphoid,” and not true typhoid, for they appear to have been of a sporadic nature, and there has been no further spreading of the disease, most probably there would have been if the germs had been in reality typhoid. The two other mild cases of enteric fever were traced to a contaminated well.

School Closure.—Bradford Peverell School was closed from Jan. 13th to 31st, owing to chicken pox.

Water Supply.—The water supply is, so far as I have examined it as yet, much the same as in the Eastern Division, there being many shallow wells, which require watching, as they soon get contaminated.

The Toller Water Supply is still under your consideration and that of the Local Government Board, but it appears a satisfactory solution of the difficulty is not far distant.

Slaughter Houses.—There are three slaughter houses, two at Charminster and one at Maiden Newton, but they are not registered. The dairies, cowsheds, milkshops, and bakehouses have been kept in a fairly cleanly state, yet they require a great deal of attention. The slaughter houses have been duly whitewashed. No veterinary surgeon is employed to examine the cows, and there is no inspector with a special certificate to examine meat.

Town Planning Act.—The Sanitary Inspector is making a house to house inspection of the whole District—sometimes with me.

Factory Act.—In this Western Division there are 14 registered workshops. Six inspections have been made during the 3 months to which this report refers, October to December, 1910, and two written notices have been sent. There have been no prosecutions, and there has been no occasion to refer any matter to H.M. Inspector of Factories, and he has not found it necessary to report anything to us. Under the Public Health Acts, three nuisances were found and remedied; one being for want of cleanliness. No underground bakehouses exist in this division. There are no outworkers.

Anthrax, etc.—No cases of anthrax, nor glanders, have occurred.

Midwifery.—The 14 midwives appear to take an interest in their work, but some of them are not very intelligent, having been admitted to the Roll on the grounds of having done this kind of work previously to 1901, therefore without any examination. I have had as yet no fault to find with them.

Hops, etc.—No hops are grown in this division. No imported labour is required for peas and fruit gathering.

The Notification of Births Act is not in force in this Division.

MATTERS FOR CONGRATULATION.

1. Extremely low death-rate—only 6·3 per 1000 (England and Wales 13·4).
2. Very low infantile death-rate—only 43 per 1000 births (England and Wales 106).
3. Zymotic death-rate “nil.”

Poole—Dr. W. T. Gardiner Robinson

Area.—The area of the whole district is 17,353 acres (exclusive of 94 acres covered by water), made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Canford Magna	7,846
Kinson	2,769
Lytchett Matravers	3,413
Lytchett Minster	3,325
Total	17,353

The district is undulating, hilly at Lytchett Matravers and part of Canford, the other part being flat. The soil is mostly of the gravelly nature, particularly at Broadstone, Wallis Down, Ensbur Park, and Lytchett Minster.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Poole (Rural)—continued.

Population.—The estimated population at the middle of 1910 was 5,700, being an increase of 921 since the census of 1901. The increase is chiefly at Wallis Down, Ensbury Park, and Broadstone.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agricultural labourers in the Lytchett Parishes, and in the district of Wallis Down the people are engaged in the building and allied trades in Bourne-mouth. No deleterious influences have been found to affect the health of the District.

The number of inhabited houses last census was 1,081, the average number of persons per house being 4.4.

Birth Rate.—The number of births registered during the year was 159, 85 males and 74 females. This is the largest total ever registered in the district. The average Birth Rate was 27.9, which is 4.8 above the decennial average. Only one birth out of the 159 was illegitimate.

Death Rate.—The deaths registered during the year were 59, which gives an average of 10.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. Two deaths must be deducted as belonging to other districts and two added, these last have occurred outside the district, one at the Work-house Infirmary, and the other at the Corneia Hospital from cancer. This makes the corrected average 10.3 as before.

The average age at death was 51.

The ages at which death took place were :—

Under 1 year	9
1 year and under 5 years	2
5 " " 15 "	2
25 " " 65 "	19
65 years and upwards	27
Total	59

The principal causes of death were :—

Heart Disease	7
Pneumonia	7
Cancer	6
Bronchitis	5
Tuberculosis	4

Four deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified," one aged 77 at Kinson, one aged 79 at Lytchett Minster, and two under one year at Lytchett Matravers.

This is an exceptionally large number for this district.

Infant Mortality.—By this is meant the number of children dying under the age of one year of every thousand births registered during the year. The total was 9 and the rate 56.6.

The unusual healthiness of the weather and the absence of epidemic diseases probably made this much lower than the average (84.4). Of the nine deaths, premature birth caused 2, Convulsions 2, and Bronchitis 2.

The Early Notifications of Births Act, 1907, has not yet been adopted by the Council, neither have we a Health Visitor who could help and educate the mothers in her duty to her offspring. This seems to be much needed in some parts. Our visits under the Housing Regulations, 1910, have discovered many cases where much ignorance exists.

Zymotic Diseases.—22 notifications were received, viz. :—

Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	2
Scarlet Fever	16
Puerperal	1
Total	22

These were notified from the following Parishes :—

Canford Magna	3
Kinson	8
Lytchett Matravers	9
Lytchett Minster	2
Total	22

One death took place from Erysipelas. Zymotic death rate per 1,000 was 17.

Scarlet Fever.—This caused 16 cases out of the 22 notified of infectious diseases. All these cases occurred early in the year, being really a continuation of the epidemic mentioned in my last report. The disease was of a mild nature, several were sent to the Infectious Hospital, where they all got on well. Mr. Seymour saw to the disinfection of the dwelling, clothing, beds, &c, with Formalin in every case. There have been no cases since June last.

Diphtheria.—Three cases were reported. The first occurred in the Gipsy Camp, near Sanders' Home of Rest, Kinson, and had been removed to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Bournemouth, before notified. After tracheotomy, it was taken to the Isolation Hospital, where it did well. The other two cases were mild, one at West Howe and the other at Broadstone.

Puerperal Fever.—This case was attended by an uncertified woman, who was duly warned. The patient recovered satisfactorily. Two midwives, both residing in Poole Borough, have sent notice of intention to practice in the District.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908) two cases only have been notified, one from East Howe and one from Lytchett Matravers. Both are visited, and instructions given as to fresh air, disinfection, expectoration, &c., to prevent the spread of the disease.

Enteric Fever.—No case of enteric fever has occurred, neither has our attention been called to any disease which could be attributed to the consumption of particular articles of food. Special enquiries have been made as regards oysters and other shell fish.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.—The pail and dry earth system is almost universally adopted, except at Broadstone, where cesspools are in use. Very few privies are now found. As regards the former they all seem to be intelligently managed and in good order, and the contents disposed of without any nuisance or detriment to health. The cesspools at Broadstone are now emptied by private contract. This does not appear to give entire satisfaction. Refuse disposal at Broadstone is done by contract, and the system on the whole works well.

Water Supply.—This is sufficient throughout the District. In Broadstone, Canford Village and Wallis Down it is obtained from the Waterworks. In Lytchett Parishes and other sparsely populated parts the water is obtained from wells. These vary as to liability to pollution, but on the whole improvements can be noted. At Kinson Village the stream which supplies a good many cottages is liable to contamination by soakings from the roads and manure on the fields. The public supply will soon be laid on near the majority of these houses, and we have instructions to attend to the connecting up of the same as early as possible.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The housing accommodation of the district is sufficient and on the whole fairly good. Under the 1910 Housing Regulations visits have been paid and many improvements made and sanitary defects remedied, and four ancient cottages have been certified as unfit for habitation. These are fast being done away with. There is ample air space everywhere, the backs are open and no sheds or other erections too near. The cleanliness is pretty good. Several require the back yards paved or otherwise repaired.

All plans for new houses are submitted to the Council, and the houses erected under supervision of the Surveyor, who sees the bye-laws carried out.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have been visited regularly, and on the whole are much improved. Both whitewashing and greater cleanliness in managing the cows have been particularly noticed. Several new cowsheds have been erected and old ones demolished. We have not seen or heard of any tuberculous cows, and no epidemic could be traced to milk. The milk produced in the district has been always found good and wholesome.

Nuisances.—We have paid many visits during the year, and in nearly all cases have found very few defects. Out of 647 visits paid by Mr. Seymour, only four notices were issued, all the rest of the necessary work required being done without notice.

Factories and Workshops.—These have been visited and the results included in Mr. Seymour's returns. He paid 75 visits to various places and all were found satisfactory. All the slaughter houses and bakehouses have been regularly visited and are well kept. We have no underground bakehouses.

Infectious Hospital.—This is in the Poole Borough and the accommodation quiet ample. All our cases did well and the average stay 42 days.

Disinfection.—This is done by Formalin. Several schools and private houses have been attended to as circumstances required.

The chief points of interest in the sanitary history of 1910 are the low death and infantile mortality rates and the high birth rates, and many improvements in various ways have been carried out on our advice and suggestions.

Mr. Seymour continues to be a most active and efficient officer. His summary shows he has done his duty.

Shaftesbury—Mr. Thomas F. Hanly.

Area.—The area of the whole district is 41,105 acres exclusive of an area of 239 acres of water.

Population.—The population of the district, according to the census of 1901, was 10,923. The estimated population to middle of 1910 was 11,258.

The number of inhabited houses, according to the census of 1901, was 2,594, giving an average number of 4.2 persons per house.

Birth-rate.—The total number of births registered during the year for the whole district was 219 (114 males and 105 females), giving a birth-rate of 19.45 per 1000 of the estimated population, which is 1.59 per 1000 higher than the rate in 1909.

For the last ten years (1900—1909) the average has been 224, giving a rate of 20.04 per 1000.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Shaftesbury (Rural)—continued.

For the year 1910 the birth-rate in England and Wales was 24·8 per 1000 of the population, which is 0·8 below the rate in 1909, and the lowest of any year on record.

The births in the various sub-districts were :—Shaftesbury 39, Fontmell 36, Gillingham 144. Ten of the births were illegitimate.

Death-rate—The total number of deaths registered during the year for the whole district was 139 (86 males and 53 females), giving a death-rate of 12·34 per 1000 of the estimated population, this being 0·90 per 1000 lower than the rate in 1909.

The average for the last ten years was 145, being at the rate of 12·98 per 1000 of the estimated population.

For the year 1910, the death-rate in England and Wales was 13·4, this is 1·1 per 1000 below the rate in 1909 and is the lowest death-rate on record.

The deaths in the various sub-districts were :—Shaftesbury 33, Fontmell 23, Gillingham 83.

Deaths were registered in the various months as follows :—January 13, February 21, March 17, April 16, May 16, June 9, July 5, August 5, September 9, October 9, November 6, and December 13.

The chief causes of death were :—Heart disease 31, brain disease 18, cancer 7, bronchitis 11, tuberculosis 4, pneumonia 8, influenza 5, measles 1, whooping cough 2.

Ages at Death.—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	14
Over 1 and under 65 years	..	..	..	51
Over 65 and under 80 years	..	..	..	54
80 years and over	..	..	..	20

Zymotic Death-rate.—0·26.

Of the 20 deaths of persons over 80 years, 16 were registered in the Gillingham sub-district, and their ages averaged 89 years. There was one aged 99, two 94, two 93, one 92.

Infant Mortality.—The total deaths of children certified under one year was 14, this gives a death-rate of 63·92 per 1000 births. The average for the last 10 years is 16, with a rate of 71·84. Two were illegitimate.

The ages at death were :—

Under 1 month	..	..	..	..	7
From 3 to 4 months	..	..	..	..	1
„ 5 to 6	..	..	..	..	1
„ 6 to 7	..	..	..	..	1
„ 8 to 9	..	..	..	..	2
„ 10 to 11	..	..	..	..	2

Half of these deaths were at the age of under one month. Natural milk is the food intended for children and women ought to recognise this so that they should accept their responsibilities accordingly, more so, as it is an accepted fact by the medical profession, that there is a relative immunity from sickness with infants fed from the breast. While injudicious feeding and the fatal risk of the early use of patent foods, and the pernicious habit of wholesale “patent medicine” administration continue, there can be but little likelihood of a decrease in infantile mortality.

Prevalence of Disease.—There were 27 cases of infectious diseases notified :—Shaftesbury 4, Fontmell 5, Gillingham 18. The diseases were scarlet fever 8, Diphtheria 12, Erysipelas 2, Tuberculosis 3, and 1 each of Enteric and Puerperal Fever. The distribution was : Shaftesbury, Tuberculosis 3 (at the Workhouse), and Diphtheria 1; Fontmell, Diphtheria 5; Gillingham, Diphtheria 6, Erysipelas 2, Scarlet Fever 8, Puerperal Fever 1, and Enteric Fever 1. No cases proved fatal.

In each case the usual regulations were strictly enforced, and all necessary precautions taken in accordance with instructions given. In the cases of Diphtheria anti-toxin serum was supplied for the poorer patients, and also for their family requirements as a preventative inoculation.

In most instances of notified diseases the water supply was found to be faulty to a danger, and the drains and other sanitary arrangements in a condition which courts illness and begets epidemics. Beyond this it was a difficult matter to trace the source of infection. In the case of Typhoid Fever no probable source of infection could be traced beyond suspicion of the water supply which was derived from a well. A sample of this water, on analysis, was found to be contaminated and unfit for dietetic purposes, but no bacteriological evidence of the specific micro-organism of enteric fever was discovered.

Failure to seek early medical advice is a far too frequent and inexcusable cause of the spread of infectious diseases. Particularly is this so in unrecognized cases and in many recognised mild cases, both of which play so important a part in the spreading of infection for want of proper medical attention, without which, notification is neglected and even the ordinary precautions are not thought necessary.

Every summer cases of infectious diseases, Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, have been imported to this district through the medium of the London children holiday visitors. This system of boarding these children of questionable health, in country cottages, is attended with so much risk that it appears to me to be a system both objectionable and of doubtful, if not even dangerous, philanthropy.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases can only be prevented by improved general sanitation, by careful investigation for the discovery of the source of infection, by isolation of infected cases, by exclusion of those who have been in contact with infection, and by strict supervision of suspected cases. Early diagnosis, notification, and school closure are our only present means of dealing with infectious diseases.

The elementary schools are a great source of the spreading of infection, and greater clearliness should be enforced by the more frequent washing of school premises, particularly the cloak rooms, where, owing to insufficient accommodation, wearing apparel is often crowded together, in a way nauseatingly suggestive of the spread of germs and other objectionable varied assortments.

Prevalence of Disease.—As a preventative of the spread of infection, it would be most desirable if indiscriminate spitting in the streets could be avoided. This is not only a disgusting habit, but a positive source of danger.

Water Supply.—The water supply is, generally speaking, bad, scanty and questionable. The supplies are mainly from the brooks, streams, rivers or wells, but in many cases there is no supply beyond filthy ponds or dirty rain water. There seems to me to be a general belief that running water, no matter how polluted, can safely be used for drinking and dietetic purposes, for no care is taken to avoid or prevent pollution of the brooks and streams forming the common sources of supply. So much so is this the case that I have been led to believe that all the brooks, streams, rivers and drinking ponds are more or less polluted by farm yard drainage in particular, and, in many instances, by crude sewerage.

The wells, in many instances, are badly located and require cleaning out. The periodical cleansing out of the wells seems to be much neglected. Several samples of drinking water, taken from wells, have been submitted to chemical analysis and condemned.

I regret to say that Gillingham, with its 4,000 inhabitants, is still in the unenviable position of being without a proper water supply, and once more I strongly call the attention of the authorities to the fact that an adequate and reliable water supply is absolutely essential for the health of the people.

Sewage and Drainage.—Excrement Disposal.—This is unsatisfactory and improvement is necessary. The natural water courses are the chief source of drainage, and in many instances there is a total absence of any drainage system. From villages, farm houses, cow sheds and farm yards alike the sewerage invariably reaches the natural water courses. Even sewerage in the ditch beside the public road is often strongly in evidence of the desirability of an efficient drainage and sewerage system. I may again call attention to the necessity of Gillingham having a proper recognised system of drainage and sewerage.

Isolation Hospital.—This district, to its disgrace, is without an Isolation Hospital, and I much regret that no steps have been taken to provide one. As this is a large and important dairy district, the paramount necessity of having an Isolation Hospital ought to be seriously recognised. It is quite an impossibility to get isolation room in small cottages, and now that the generous hospitality of our good neighbours can no longer be depended upon for acceptance of our infectious cases at the Blandford Isolation Hospital, it can be readily understood what an increased amount of difficulty there is to contend with in the event of any infectious outbreaks through the want of that helpful necessity, isolation accommodation.

Housing for the Working Classes.—The housing of the working classes is of great importance, for we are all familiar with some of the wretched dwellings where light and fresh air are deficient, where filth abounds, and where personal hygiene is unknown. In many of the older cottages there is want of room through structural deficiency, and sanitary arrangements are rudimentary or altogether absent. The new houses and cottages are more roomy, and their sanitary arrangements are more in keeping with the knowledge of modern requirements.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, &c.—Improvements are slowly taking place in the cowsheds, the majority of which still remain in anything but a satisfactory state. However, I am pleased the farmers recognise their responsibilities and evince a decided and keen desire to carry out the regulations now in force. Milk to be pure must be procured from a healthy cow, and as the influence of the shed upon the health of the cow is very great, it will be recognised that the necessity of raising the cowsheds to a condition of structural sufficiency, so as to comply with all essential requirements, is of the utmost importance. Fresh air, light, cleanliness, and other hygienic conditions in the shed are all necessary requirements for the welfare of the cow.

It is important that cows should have a reliable supply of good drinking water when we are aware how quickly milk becomes tainted and fermented from cows that drink from sources often impregnated with contamination. The depraved tendency and acquired taste, cultivated under necessity, which cows evince for drinking from a dirty or even stagnant pond, is no excuse for the want of provision of an accessible drinking supply. This should be pure, ample, and within reasonable distance of the sheds. An ample supply of pure water is a most essential requisite for all dairy purposes, and without a pure water supply a pure milk supply is impossible. Therefore it seems to me that under existing conditions an absolutely pure milk supply is hopeless.

When we recognise the fact that milk is almost a necessity for the general population, that it is the national food of the infant, and the mainstay of the invalid, then the importance of a pure milk supply can be seriously understood. I may say that, of all food, milk is the most easily contaminated and the most liable to convey infection and spread disease, therefore the necessity to take every reasonable precaution for the preservation of the good health of the cows, and to procure the milk under conditions most likely to ensure its freedom from all deleterious germs. The strictest cleanliness and care is necessary in everything appertaining to milk. In the cowsheds, and on all dairy premises, everything should be cleanliness itself. Too little attention is given to the care of the milk in the houses of the consumers, and frequently the conditions of the milk when in the houses is of more importance in the spread of diseases than the condition of the milk before delivery.

Probably there is not so much danger in consuming tuberculous meat as there is in drinking tuberculous milk and eating the produce of this as butter and cheese. There is no doubt that tuberculosis amongst cattle should be eradicated. This could be effected by having all the animals tested with tuberculin, the reactors being isolated, and those unfit for breeding purposes destroyed.

Slaughter Houses.—The slaughter houses are unsatisfactory and much behind modern requirements. They are badly situated, being close to stables and in such close proximity to inhabited houses as to almost constitute a nuisance.

Bakehouses.—The Bakehouses are generally satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses, &c.—There is no common lodging house in the district.

Factory and Workshop.—This district is not, to any extent, affected by the Factory Act, however, in the existing workshops, factories and other workplaces, sanitary arrangements were satisfactory.

Nuisances, &c.—All complaints received attention and nuisances were reported accordingly.

There were 95 complaints received during the year and 328 inspections made.

Five cases of overcrowding were reported.

There were 28 carcasses of pigs condemned as unfit for human food.

Anthrax was reported as having occurred at Manor Farm, Silton.

In the investigation of nuisances varied conditions were experienced, from the occurrence of a single nuisance to an aggregation of objectionable conditions frequently found in connection with closet accommodation, and the want of accommodation for house refuse, &c.

It is a difficult matter to deal satisfactorily with domestic and personal uncleanness, for although poverty is no crime, filth and dirt are inexcusable.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I may mention that in January the Compton Abbas schools were closed for Measles, and in February the East Orchard schools were closed for Influenza. In connection with the epidemic of Measles at Compton Abbas, I found it necessary to make a house-to-house inspection.

Sherborne—Dr. G. R. Rickett.

Area of District.—37,482 acres.

General Characteristics.—The subsoil of the district is inferior oolite, and the character of the country undulating, lying near the head of the water parting between Bristol and the English Channel. Average height from 200 to 500 feet above sea-level.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants of the district is agriculture. There are no factories, but in about 40 houses, women work at glove-making, 68 women being thus employed.

Population.—Census 1901, 5,725. Estimated to middle of 1910, 6213.

Births.—During the year 1910, 117 Births have been registered—40 more than last year—66 males and 51 females.

Deaths.—Fifty-one Deaths have been registered, 31 males, 20 females; making an increase of population of 66, being 52 more than last year. This gives a birth-rate of 18·83 and a death-rate of 8·20 per 1,000 population, the lowest recorded in this district.

The Average age at death is 57·35, six years in advance of last year.

There have been eight deaths from bronchitis; one from pneumonia, two from phthisis; one from influenza; eight from heart disease; three from cancer; one from accident.

Twenty-two of the deaths were of persons over the age of 70 years; of these three exceeded the age of 90 years, two males and one female, and five exceeded 80 years, three males and two females.

Six of the deaths were under one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 51·28 per 1,000 births, which is quite low; of these deaths, two were prematurely born, two died from bronchitis and two from inanition.

The following Table epitomises the ages at which the deaths occurred throughout the district:—

Deaths under 1 year	..	..	6
„ from 1 to 5 years	..	..	0
„ „ 5 to 15 „	..	..	1
„ „ 15 to 25 „	..	..	0
„ „ 25 to 65 „	..	..	17
„ „ 65 upwards	..	..	27
Total	..	..	51

Infectious Diseases.—There has been no epidemic during the year, ten cases have been reported, six of which were scarlet fever, two erysipelas, one diphtheria, one puerperal septicæmia; two of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in one family at Sandford Orcas; three at Thornford in two families. The case of diphtheria at Holwell contracted the infection elsewhere. All the cases of infectious disease recovered.

Housing Accommodation.—The accommodation in this district is sufficient, overcrowding being unfrequent; two cases only were reported last year. The older cottages are built of stone, many have thatched roofs, and owing to the lack of proper foundations, absence of damp courses and insufficiency of eaves spouting, the walls are damp. In many cases the floors are of stone-flags laid directly in the soil, resulting in wet or damp floors in the winter. Many of these floors are being re-laid with concrete, and some of the cottages have been roofed anew. Six cottages of this type have been closed this year, and in other cases, following their usual custom, the Council have ordered demolition at the decease of their present occupants. The newer cottages are built of stone and have tiled roofs. Plans of the new ones are submitted to the Council under their building laws. About eight new cottages have been built, and three cottages unsatisfactory by reason of their being built back-to-back have been altered.

Water Supply.—The supply is on the whole good and is described in my last year's report. There seems to be a hope that the Southern district, which hitherto has been very poorly supplied with water, will in the future have an adequate supply.

A Committee of the Council have been considering the matter and various sources of supply for Holwell, Bishops Caundle and Bishops Down have been investigated. A spring has been found in Bishops Caundle and the amount of supply from this source will shortly be reported on by an Engineer. Contingent on his report being satisfactory, a plan for the supply of these parishes is being considered. Several wells have been investigated and contamination of them by surface water has been remedied.

Milk Supply.—The register of dairies and cowsheds now contains about 140 names. Most of these dairies dispose of their milk, some however make butter and cheese. Much of the milk is taken direct uncooled to various milk factories in the district, the remainder having been cooled is sent away by train. The cowsheds are still improving; they are kept cleaner and better lighted and their drainage is more satisfactory. Cleanliness on the part of the milkers is more noticeable. The condition of the bartons is gradually improving, and about 20 bartons have been restored. On the whole the conditions of these is more satisfactory.

Food Supply.—The food supply of the district is good; the sanitary condition of the places where food is prepared, stored and sold in this Rural district is good, and no action has been required under Sec. 117 of P.H.A. of 1875. No carcasses have been condemned for tuberculosis.

Sewerage and Drainage.—There is no complete system of sewers and sewage disposal in this district. In the village of Trent during the last year the drainage of Rig's Lane has been improved by carrying the pipe another 100 yards up the lane. The sewer in Yetminster which was in an unsatisfactory condition has been entirely re-laid. The river Yeo at Darkhole is still polluted by the sewage of the Urban district, and though as for years past this condition is still being discussed by the Urban Council no action has yet been taken. The cattle in the fields adjoining the river still by accident occasionally gain access to the river. The river here is still as offensive as has been described in previous reports.

The same river is polluted at Compton Mill, but on my last visit there the condition was not so bad as it has been in times past.

The Milborne Port sewage still occasionally pollutes the river at Goathill, but the river is not offensive. There are, with few exceptions, no house drains in the cottages. There are very few sinks inside the cottages. The usual custom is to throw the slops on the gardens. There are also surface drains outside the houses which receive surface water and some slops.

Excrement Disposal.—The greater number of the cottages still dispose of excrement by privy middens. These are large and are emptied by their owners twice a year. Every year a certain number of these are being closed and buckets are being substituted. These privy middens are most unsatisfactory. Many are old and leak and are liable to contaminate neighbouring wells. Few if any are ventilated and most of the closets are offensive. This state of things is worse in the Southern than in the Northern part of the district.

The house refuse is usually removed by the occupants to their gardens, and there are no complaints of infrequency in this matter.

There are no common lodging-houses in the district, and there is only one offensive trade, *i.e.*, gut scraping, and no complaint has been made.

Schools.—The sanitary condition of the schools in this district is very good. The water supply is sufficient. Medical inspection of school children is carefully conducted, and the statistics of the Sherborne Hospital shew a number of cases treated last year in consequence of the reports of the School Medical Officer. The closure of schools for infectious diseases is now controlled by the School Medical Officer.

Infectious Diseases and Isolation.—No serious epidemic of any infectious disease has occurred during the last year. When cases are notified the Inspector of Nuisances calls and enquires into the arrangements made for isolation and prevention of the spread of the disease. In cases where it is advisable the patient is removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital is still as unsatisfactory as ever. There are two wards and a duty room. The Nurse has to sleep in one of the wards, as there is no administration block. No caretaker resides on the premises, and there is always a delay of over 36 hours before a case can be admitted if the hospital is closed. A nurse has to be obtained, beds to be aired and made, and food provided. In its present condition the hospital is well nigh useless for an emergency.

Disinfection is carried out after all cases of infectious disease free of cost at the Isolation Hospital. There is a steam disinfecter. Cottages are disinfected by burning formalin candles. Sanitas and other disinfectants is provided free of charge by the Sanitary Inspector where needed.

In cases of diphtheria among the poor, the Rural District Council supply antitoxin to the medical man in charge of the case free of charge.

Tuberculosis.—Compulsory notification is so far only enforced in cases of the poor in receipt of relief; no case was notified during the past year.

The Council, however, at a recent meeting decided to defray the cost of voluntary notification in private cases, when it is intended that pamphlets giving information as to the nature of the disease and as to how best its spread may be arrested will be supplied.

In some instances the private landowners disinfect cottages at their own expense when a death from pulmonary tuberculosis has occurred.

There is no local accommodation for cases of pulmonary tuberculosis either early or advanced in Hospital or Infirmary.

I personally attend most Meetings of the Rural District Council, and alone, or in company with the Sanitary Inspector, visit the district regularly.

Sturminster Newton—Mr. Bernard S. Hollick

Area of District.—(Exclusive of area covered by water) 39,151 acres.

Population.—(Census 1901) 8,804. Estimated to the middle of year 1910, 8,601.

Births.—During the year 145 births have been registered. Of these 71 were males and 74 were females. The decennial average is 174.

Birth Rate.—This is 16·8 per thousand persons living, the decennial average is 20·5.

Deaths.—The number of deaths during the year amounts to 96. Of these 54 were males and 42 were females. The decennial average is 123.

Death Rate.—This is 11·1 per thousand persons living, and is the lowest recorded during the last 10 years. The decennial average is 14·1. The chief causes of deaths were bronchitis 17, heart disease 11, phthisis 8, and cancer 6.

The average age at death was 59·5, the decennial average being about 52·5.

Zymotic Rate.—There has been one death during the year under this heading, which was due to diphtheria.

Infantile Mortality.—The total number of deaths occurring under one year of age was 8, which gives a death rate of 55·4. Of these 8 premature births accounted for 5.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.—There has been 16 cases of infectious disease notified, which compares favourably with the number last year, when 38 cases were notified. Of these 13 were due to diphtheria, and one each to scarlet fever, typhoid fever and erysipelas.

Of the diphtheria cases five occurred at Okeford Fitzpaine, three at Bagber, two at Stalbridge, and one each at Manston, Fiddleford, and Sturminster Newton.

Schools.—The Schools have been closed in the following parishes during the year :—

Okeford Fitzpaine, owing to diphtheria.
Bagber, owing to diphtheria.
Haselbury Bryan, owing to whooping cough.

Phthisis.—Eight deaths occurred from phthisis during the year. Six of these were over the age of 25, one over 15, and one over 5 years of age. Of these three occurred at Sturminster Newton, three at Stalbridge, one at Marnhull, and one at Okeford Fitzpaine.

Two cases of phthisis were notified as having occurred in pauper patients in the district.

Water Supply.—The following places have a public water supply :—Sturminster Newton, Okeford Fitzpaine, Ibberton, Shillingstone, Woolland, Fifehead Magdalen, and part of Stalbridge. The remaining parishes derive their supply chiefly from wells and springs in the neighbourhood. The former generally are in an unsatisfactory state, most of them being contaminated by surface water owing to the faulty construction of the wells.

Isolation Hospital.—There is no Isolation Hospital in the district. Cases, when thought necessary, are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Blandford. During the year seven cases were sent to this hospital.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In most of the villages the privies are of the old fashion vault type, and are generally insanitary. Efforts are being made to convert these into a pail and earth system, and a number have been so converted during the past year. In the larger parishes water closets are more in use, which discharge their contents either into tanks, or after passing along open ditches for various distances, into the various water courses in the neighbourhood. At Sturminster Newton new sewers have been laid in places where previously the sewer was simply an open ditch, running in close proximity to dwelling houses. This was a most necessary, though costly proceeding.

The greater part of the sewage at Stalbridge is treated by irrigation before being passed into the stream.

Housing of the Working Classes.—This is still most unsatisfactory in many instances, and is likely to remain so as long as the difficulty of the erection of new cottages in rural districts is present.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—The register of dairies and cowsheds now contains 111 names. This represents about 230 individual sheds. During the year I have, in company with the Sanitary Inspector, visited 84 cowsheds. Many are well built, clean, and carried on in a satisfactory manner, with due attention to cleanliness both as regards the process of milking itself and the utensils used. Others there are which are badly built, the drainage and flooring being chiefly at fault. The yards are badly drained, and heaps of manure are allowed to stand in close proximity to the sheds for several weeks before being removed. Thirty-six notices have been sent out during the year with regard to these unsanitary conditions. There are about 950 cows kept in the sheds which are entered in the register. Most of the milk is sent to the three factories situated in the district. These send out about 2,000 gallons of milk daily, the bulk of which goes to London and the neighbourhood. The factories themselves are carried on in a very sanitary manner.

Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, and Common Lodging Houses.—The condition of the slaughter houses and bakehouses is, on the whole, satisfactory. There is no register kept of the slaughter houses. There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Inspection of the District.—The number of inspections of houses and premises in the district amounts to 476. About 90 notices have been sent out for sanitary amendments in regard to these. There is still much to be done in the district to bring about things as they should be from a sanitary point of view.

Wareham—Mr. Kilcoursie J. Courtenay

Area.—The district comprises 89,225 acres, and is by far the largest in Dorset.

Population.—According to the last Census this was 10,574, and is estimated to the middle of 1910 at 10,500, thus remaining practically stationary.

Birth Rate.—There were 216 births registered during the year, which is a rate of 20·5 per 1,000.

Death Rate.—There were 120 deaths registered during the year, but of these 6 occurred outside the district. This gives a death-rate of 11·4 per 1,000, which is the lowest for the last ten years, and on which we may congratulate ourselves. The average age at death was 54 years 76 days, an improvement on last year, when the average age was 52 years 28 days.

Zymotic Disease.—No death occurred under this heading.

Infant Mortality.—There were 14 deaths of infants under one year, which gives a rate of 64·8 per 1,000 births registered. This is an improvement on the last three years.

General.—Of the deaths registered 21 were due to heart disease, 9 to malignant disease, 6 to bronchitis, 4 to enteritis, 3 to premature birth, 3 to accident, 5 to phthisis, 1 to disease and accident at parturition, 1 to suicide, 2 to influenza.

There were 14 fewer deaths from heart disease and 4 less from phthisis. One of the accidental deaths occurred from the explosion of a gun, one from drowning—the body was washed ashore at Warbarrow—and one from overlaying.

Notification.—I have received 66 certificates under the Notification of Diseases Act, an increase on last year. 54 were from scarlet fever, 8 from erysipelas, 3 from diphtheria, 1 from enteric.

Of the scarlet fever cases 14 occurred in No 1 District, 16 in No. 2, 9 in No. 3, 15 in No. 4. Only one death occurred out of this number, and that was a woman of weakly constitution.

The case of enteric was from contaminated water from a water closet, which has since been remedied.

No case of diphtheria occurred in No. 2 District.

Water Supply.—Matters are much more satisfactory, as new wells are being dug with good results.

Sewage and Drainage.—Earth closets are now taking the place of vault privies whenever opportunities occur, and there is a gradual improvement.

Dairies and Slaughter Houses.—I have made a systematic inspection of these, more particularly the dairies from which milk is sold, and I found most of them in a satisfactory condition. Suggested improvements have been willingly carried out.

Cottage Accommodation.—There is a gradual but steady improvement.

Physical Features and General Character.—This is purely an agricultural district, and with few exceptions the population is employed on the land. A fair number of men are employed in the clay works, about 40 are employed in the pottery works, but the cement works which took a few are now closed. It is a very wide and thinly populated district. The general health is very good.

Owing to the epidemic of scarlet fever the Isolation Hospital, I am sorry to say, has been open most of the year. The fever was imported into the district.

Weymouth—Mr. W. Hawkins.

The Area of the District is 29,005 acres, and when the inland water is subtracted, 28,969 acres.

The Population at the last Census was 7,884, and has not much increased at the present time.

Birth-rate.—The number of births for the year is 180, which gives a rate of 22·8 per 1,000 of population.

The Death-rate is 11·9 per 1,000. This is one of the lowest recorded for the district, and when only residents are taken into account it would be 11·1 per 1,000.

Average Age at Death is 39.

Zymotic Death-rate is nil.

Infant Mortality.—Fifteen children died under the age of one year, giving a rate of 83·3 per 1,000 of births registered.

Prevalence of Disease: Notification.—Only 14 notifications were received.

Scarlet fever	..	..	8
Diphtheria ..	..	..	2
Enteric fever	..	..	2
Erysipelas ..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis	..	..	1

The district lies near the Sea, sheltered from the North by a range of hills, 4 to 500 feet high; these act as a water shed and supply good water in small streams running to the sea.

The working population is mostly occupied with agriculture and market gardening, with some fishing, and a good deal of Laundry work is done in the cottages, and this is somewhat prejudicial to health.

Housing Accommodation.—With the exception of the village at Wyke Regis the district is mostly agricultural, and the housing is generally sufficient. Many of the cottages are very old, but are kept in a fair state of repair.

At Wyke Regis the majority of the houses are of modern construction, and within the last eighteen years this village has grown very rapidly, but during the last three or four years the building of houses here cannot be said to have been brisk, and a great many are unoccupied on account of the reduction of the number of men employed at the Torpedo Factory.

All new houses throughout the district are subject to Building Bye-laws, and the supervision of the erection of all new premises is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

No action under the Housing of the Working Classes Act has been taken or needed. All necessary repairs, etc., have been carried out upon notice to the same.

One prosecution for breach of Building Bye-Laws occurred during the year, the defendant was convicted and fined.

Water Supply.—With few exceptions the water supply is generally sufficient and good. The larger villages obtain water laid on from reservoirs, and the hamlets get their water from wells and springs.

One small hamlet is very badly supplied as to quantity. The water upon analysis could not be condemned. To obtain a better supply would entail heavy cost, and the number of houses—four—hardly merit such expense.

At Lower Bincombe a supply for the farm house and cottages has been laid on by the Owners, the water being pumped up by a ram situated a mile away.

Milk Supply.—The Milk supply throughout the district is generally good and satisfactory, the quality of the same may be considered very good.

No Milk is imported into the district.

The dairies, cowsheds and milk shops are generally satisfactory, and since the adoption of the Act very considerable improvement has been made, both in regard to cleanliness of the premises, utensils and persons.

Frequent inspections of the cowsheds are made especially during the hours of milking, and if necessary, we are empowered to call in a veterinary surgeon to inspect any cows which may be suspected of disease.

Two new cowsheds have been erected during the past year to re-place old buildings condemned, and improvements in many of the sheds have been carried out, chiefly in regard to floors and drainage.

Food Inspection.—All slaughter-houses within the district are subject to frequent inspection, generally during the time that killing is in progress. Very little cause for complaint can be found with the quality of the meat, but in one case your Inspector seized an animal bought by a butcher for human food, and the beast when killed was found to be in an advanced stage of disease, and upon a Magistrate's Order the entire carcase was destroyed in a Refuse Destructor of the Borough of Weymouth. In this case we were acting in concert with, and had the assistance of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector of the Borough of Weymouth.

Another animal was killed and the carcase destroyed by the owner upon the request of your Inspector and myself. It was much diseased and had been kept in the company of other animals supplying milk to a small vendor, although the said animal was not giving any milk at the time of seizure.

Sewerage and Drainage.—A system of drainage was laid down in the village of Wyke Regis about eight years ago and has been working very satisfactorily; the general condition of the sewers and house drains is good.

The method of disposal of sewage here is by means of open septic tanks, filters and land irrigation. The sludge is used by an adjoining farmer on his land, the filtered effluent discharging into the Portland Harbour, under the control of the Admiralty, but no complaints have been received since the works have been started in regard to the quality of the effluent. In other parts of the district drainage is effected by means of cesspools and earth closets with a smaller number of privy vaults. Some of the larger villages are growing, more particularly Upwey and Broadwey. Should the present rate of building still continue, the question of drainage will have to be considered in a few years.

Pollution of Rivers.—Very little pollution of rivers can be said to exist in the district, some of the smaller villages have old drains which eventually lead into the rivers and overflows from cesspools at times discharge therein. No new drains are allowed to be put in which discharge into any river.

Excrement Disposal.—In the districts generally (excepting Wyke Regis) excrement is disposed of by using same on land, and the district being largely agricultural this can be effected satisfactorily.

Removal of House Refuse.—This is only undertaken by the Council in one part of the district (Wyke Regis). The work is let by Contract, and at present is carried out quite satisfactorily, being collected twice weekly, and the refuse is taken away to a farm and used on the land. In others parts it is managed by occupiers.

Nuisances.—No legal proceedings for the abatement of any nuisance have been taken during the past year, the abatement of such being generally effected after a request or letter from the Inspector.

Bye-laws as to Lodgings and Offensive Trades.—No Bye-laws are in force for houses let in lodgings or offensive trades. The district does not need any such Bye-laws, and no trouble arises in regard to offensive trades.

Schools.—The Village Schools are in a good Sanitary condition. Improvements have been made at Radipole this year. The water supply is good. Many schools have been closed on account of measles and mumps. The medical inspection of children is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

Methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases.—Most of the cases of infectious diseases are treated in the Isolation Hospital, which takes 16 to 18 patients.

The Hospital is now in a very efficient state.

Disinfection is carried out by means of formalin vapours and carbolic acid.

Methods of control of Tuberculosis.—The only system of notification is that by Poor Law Medical Officers.

One case was notified during the year and the boy was sent away to a sanatorium for treatment. Known cases are visited and disinfectants supplied, and in case of death the rooms are fumigated, stripped and cleansed.

Tuberculosis—continued.—There is no Hospital accommodation for persons suffering from tuberculosis in the district,

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted by your Council, and there are no Health Visitors.

Factory Act.—336 Inspections have been made under this Act. No written notices were issued. There are 62 workshops on the Register, and the addresses of three out-workers have been received and duly visited. One prosecution was made jointly with the R.S.P.C.A. Inspector resulting in a conviction and fine.

This has been an exceptionally healthy year, five of the scarlet fever cases were from Wyke Regis, and there were only eight altogether. Two mild cases of diphtheria and two of enteric fever, which were probably imported.

The death-rate is the lowest for many years.

Your Inspector and myself have made systematic inspections of the district.

Wimborne and Cranborne—Mr. C. Thomson

Area.—81,011 acres, or deducting inland water 80,725 acres.

Population.—1901 Census 13,414, estimated to the middle of 1910, 13,800. Natural increase in 1910, 200. Inhabited houses, Census 1901, 3,158.

Births.—352 (an increase of 44 on last year), or 25.5 per 1,000 estimated population.

Infantile Mortality.—25 children died under the age of one year, being 71 per 1,000 births registered.

Deaths.—152 (an increase of 6 on last year), or 11 per 1,000 of the estimated gross population.

Average Age at Death.—49.3 (Wimborne 50.4, Cranborne 47.3).

Zymotic Death Rate.—No death occurred from zymotic disease.

Notifiable Disease.—61 cases were notified, including:—

15 Pulmonary Phthisis.
3 Diphtheria.
8 Erysipelas.
35 Scarlet Fever.

WIMBORNE RURAL.

Population.—1901 Census, 7,576. Estimated to middle of 1910, 7,900.

Births.—200 (males 110, females 90), or 25.3 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—12.

Deaths.—93, or 11.7 per 1,000.

Zymotic Mortality.—Nil.

M.O.H. Reports, 1910, Wimborne and Cranborne (Rural)—continued

CRANBORNE RURAL.

Population.—1901 Census, 5,832. Estimated to middle of 1910, 5,900.

Births.—152 (males 73, females 79), or 25·8 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—13.

Deaths.—59, or 10 per 1,000.

Zymotic Mortality.—Nil.

Physical Features of District.—The district is situated in the north-eastern portion of the County of Dorset, and is drained by the river Stour and its tributaries, the Allen and other small streams. The general character of the country is undulating, with no elevation greatly above sea level, the lowest part being about 40 feet and the highest about 520 feet above Ordnance datum.

A band of the lower eocene beds consisting of plastic clay and London clay divides the district in a line running from north-east to south-west through Wimborne Urban District. To the north-west of this band the district rests upon the older chalk formation, and to the south-east of the band upon the middle eocene beds comprising the Lower Bagshot sandy gravel and clay. Alluvium is found in the vicinity of the banks of the rivers Stour and Allen.

Chief Occupations of Inhabitants.—The district is almost wholly agricultural. Dairy farms are numerous, and some of them large, supplying not only the district, but also sending large quantities of milk to Bournemouth and other places. The only factories or works in the district are a large paper mill at Witchampton and a dairy and cheese factory at Sturminster Marshall. A considerable area of the district is occupied by pine woods and common lands and "downs," and a large portion is covered by private parks and game preserves.

GENERAL REPORT.

The total number of deaths (152) in the district shows an increase of 6 on last year, but the death rate for the year (11) is considerably below the average rate for the last ten years (12·4).

Of these deaths 20 were registered as due to senile decay, and occurred at ages from 75 to 91 years.

11 of the deaths were due to heart disease, 14 bronchitis, 19 pulmonary tuberculosis, 4 to other tubercular diseases, 17 cancer, and 14 premature birth, while 7 deaths were due to accidents.

The general health of the district has continued very good during the year. There has not been any death due to zymotic disease, and there has not been any case of enteric fever notified during the last two years. The cases of diphtheria (3) notified were, as far as we could determine, imported.

The notified cases of scarlet fever (35) shows a considerable diminution on the number notified last year (54). The cases have all been of a very mild type and the infection was in most cases to be contracted during attendance at school. In several cases where efficient home isolation could not be carried out the children were sent to the Blandford Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection of premises after notifiable disease was efficiently carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances.

The notification of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis is voluntary in the district, but is we think fully carried out. The number notified (15) is considerably larger than that of last year (8). All notified cases are visited and enquired into, and full general instructions supplied. In cases of death the premises are disinfected.

There is no public sanatorium for tuberculosis in the county.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—Purveyors of milk and cowkeepers are systematically registered in the district, and continuous inspections of the numerous dairy farms and premises are kept up during the year, and we are glad to be able to report a gradual but marked improvement in the construction, ventilation, and cleanliness of the sheds.

Slaughterhouses.—All these have been systematically visited and suggested improvements have been carried out.

Bakehouses.—The condition of these have been found satisfactory as regards cleanliness, &c., and the water supply of some have been improved where necessary.

Public Elementary Schools.—These have been visited and inspected and found in a satisfactory sanitary condition. Where needed the water supply has been examined and analysed, but in no cases have impure water been found. Where infectious disease is prevalent and it has been considered necessary to close the schools for the prevention of the spread of the disease this has been done. The medical inspection of school children is carried out by the county school medical officers.

Housing of the Working Classes.—All plans for the erection of new houses are now submitted to the Council for approval, and there is no doubt but that a great improvement is taking place in the housing accommodation in the district. The old clay habitation with thatched roof is gradually disappearing and being replaced by the modern dwelling with modern sanitary conveniences. The water supply of all new houses is enquired into and samples are taken for analysis before a water certificate is granted. Legal proceedings have been taken in cases where a newly built house has been occupied without such certificate having been obtained.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In many of the new houses being built in the district water is laid on from the Bournemouth mains. In these houses water closets are being used. In the older houses this is not the case, either pail closets or ordinary privies afford the usual method of excrement disposal, the emptying of pails, etc., being done by the occupier and the contents being finally disposed of upon the land. In such a widely scattered rural district any public system of scavenging would be impracticable. Improvements in excrement disposal are made whenever possible, and earth closets are gradually replacing the out-of-date vault privies.